# Suki™

A LIKE STORY

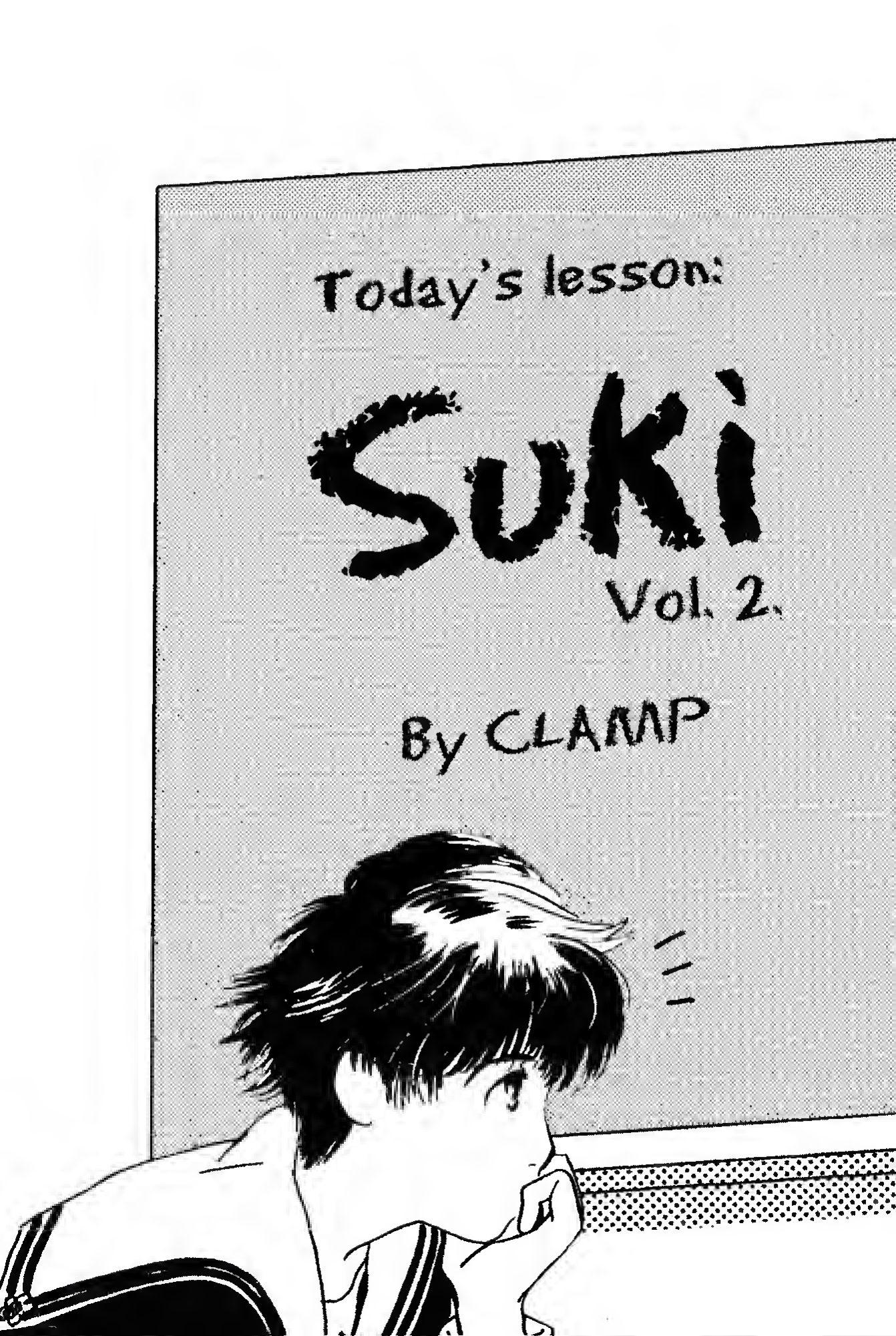
2

CLAMP

VIZ SELECT

"I LIKE YOU.
THAT'S WHY I LIKE YOU."

New Vocabulary
"Suki" - To Like
"Daisuki" - To Love
"Suki, Dakara Suki" - "I Like You, That's Why I Like You"
Homework
Pgs. 1-192


Today's lesson:
Suki
Vol. 2.
By CLAMP

**Suki Vol. 2**
Created by CLAMP

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## THE STORY SO FAR...

FIRST YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HINATA ASAHI LEADS A SOLITARY LIFE. SHE NOT ONLY LIVES BY HERSELF, BUT AT SCHOOL SHE'S PICKED ON FOR BEING SO NAIVE. HER LIFE BECOMES A LOT MORE INTERESTING WHEN THE NEW HOMEROOM TEACHER, SHIRO ASOU, MOVES INTO THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR. AS HINA STARTS TO SPEND TIME WITH THIS MYSTERIOUS, OLDER MAN, SHE DISCOVERS AN EMOTION SHE'D NEVER FELT BEFORE—COULD IT BE LOVE?

# 6

SUKI
TM

MY LOVE IS GROWING....
.....IT MULTIPLIES.
I JUST KEEP LOVING YOU MORE AND MORE.

Today's food looks so good, as always.
Tsuya tsuya
puku puku!
Both delicious and nutritious.
Eat it up now, thank you, thank you!
コト
コト
EAT UP, GROW UP BIG AND STRONG...
プルルルルル
プルルルルル
COMING!
プルルルルル
HELLO! ASAHI RESIDENCE!

HELLO?!
HM?
HELLO?
CLICK
WRONG NUMBER....?
COMING!
OH, MY.

GOOD MORNING!
I BOUGHT SOME SLIPPERS JUST FOR YOU, SENSEI! HERE YOU GO!!
TEE HEE!
GOOD MORNING.

パタパタ

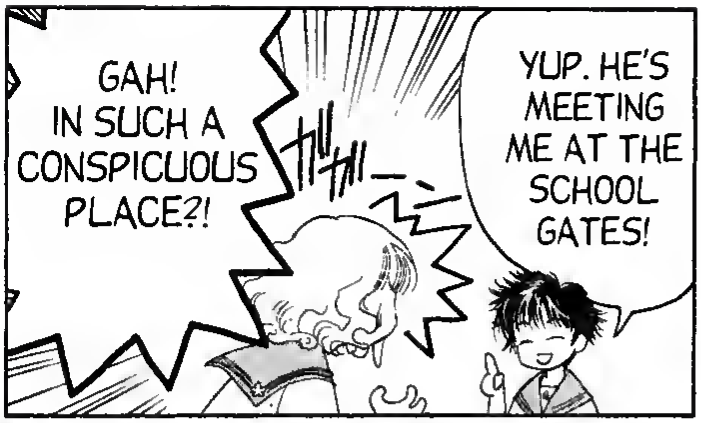
TODAY I TRIED MAKING SOME FRIED FISH!
I HEARD YOU LIKED FISH.
HERE'S YOUR RICE.
SIT DOWN.
LET'S EAT!
LET'S EAT!
カチャ
カチャ
HOW IS IT?
NOT BAD

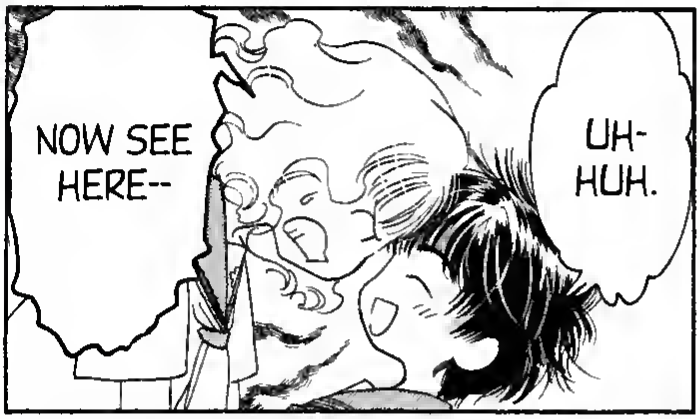
ASAHI RESIDENCE!
SHE ANSWERS BEFORE SHE PICKS UP.. GREAT.
HELLO!
HELLO?
HELLO?
UH-HUH. IT HAPPENED A FEW MINUTES AGO, TOO.
A WRONG NUMBER?
THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING?
HM. THEY HUNG UP.

I KEPT SAYING HELLO, BUT NOBODY ANSWERED.
...DO YOU GET CALLS LIKE THAT OFTEN?
NO...NOT REALLY.
NO NO NO
WHY?

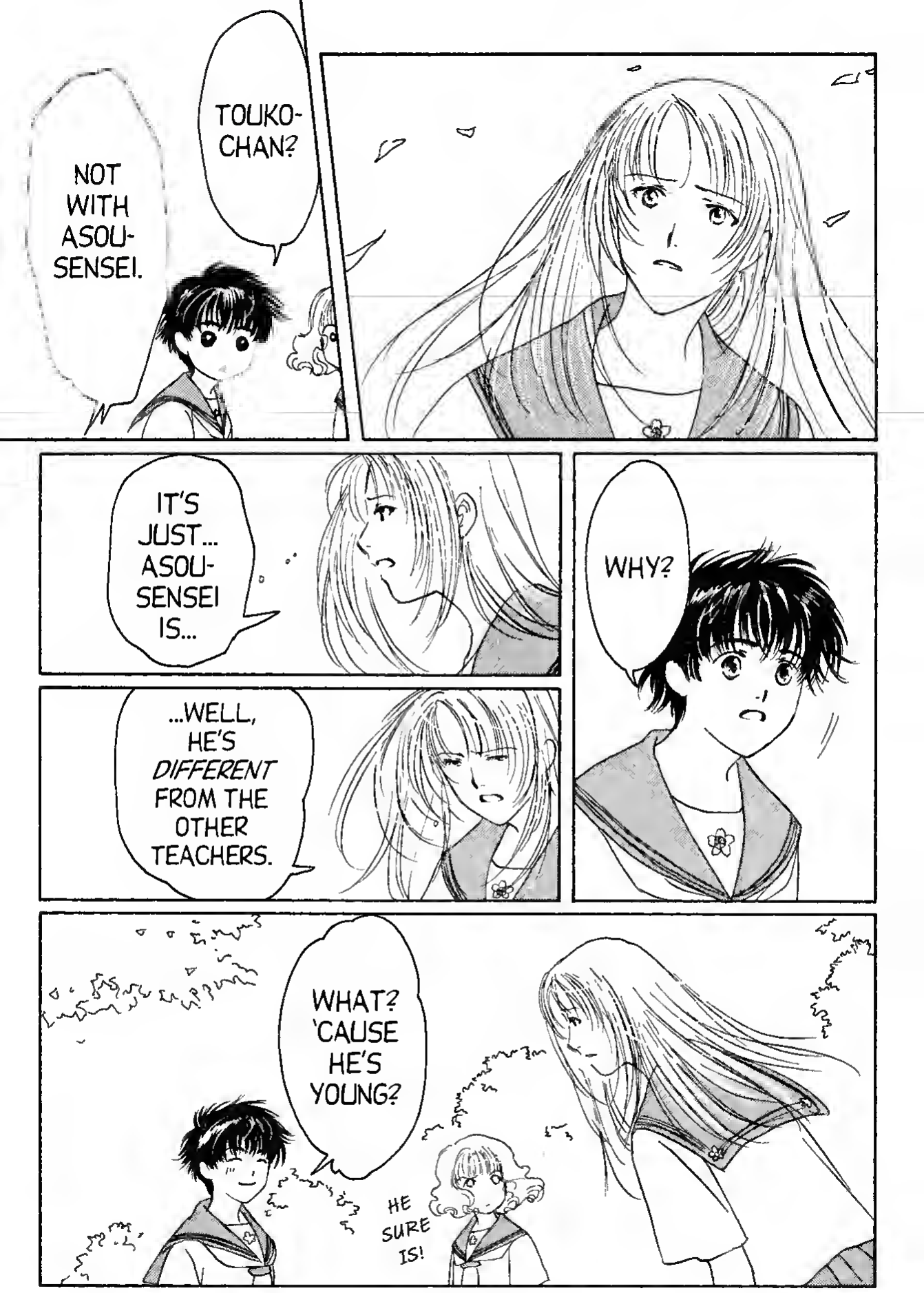
...YOU AREN'T IN ANY CLUBS RIGHT NOW, ARE YOU?
NOPE! SO I CAN COME HOME EARLY AND MAKE DINNER FOR YOU, IF YOU WANT!
I'LL GO WITH YOU.
HUH?
GROCERY SHOPPING.
WAIT FOR ME OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL GATES.
OKAY!!

ANYTHING GOOD HAPPEN?
HINA, YOUR EYES ARE ALL HAPPY THIS MORNING... LIKE THIS!
WHAT?
WHAT??
WELL...
LATER?
AND MORE GOOD STUFF'S GONNA HAPPEN LATER!
YUP!

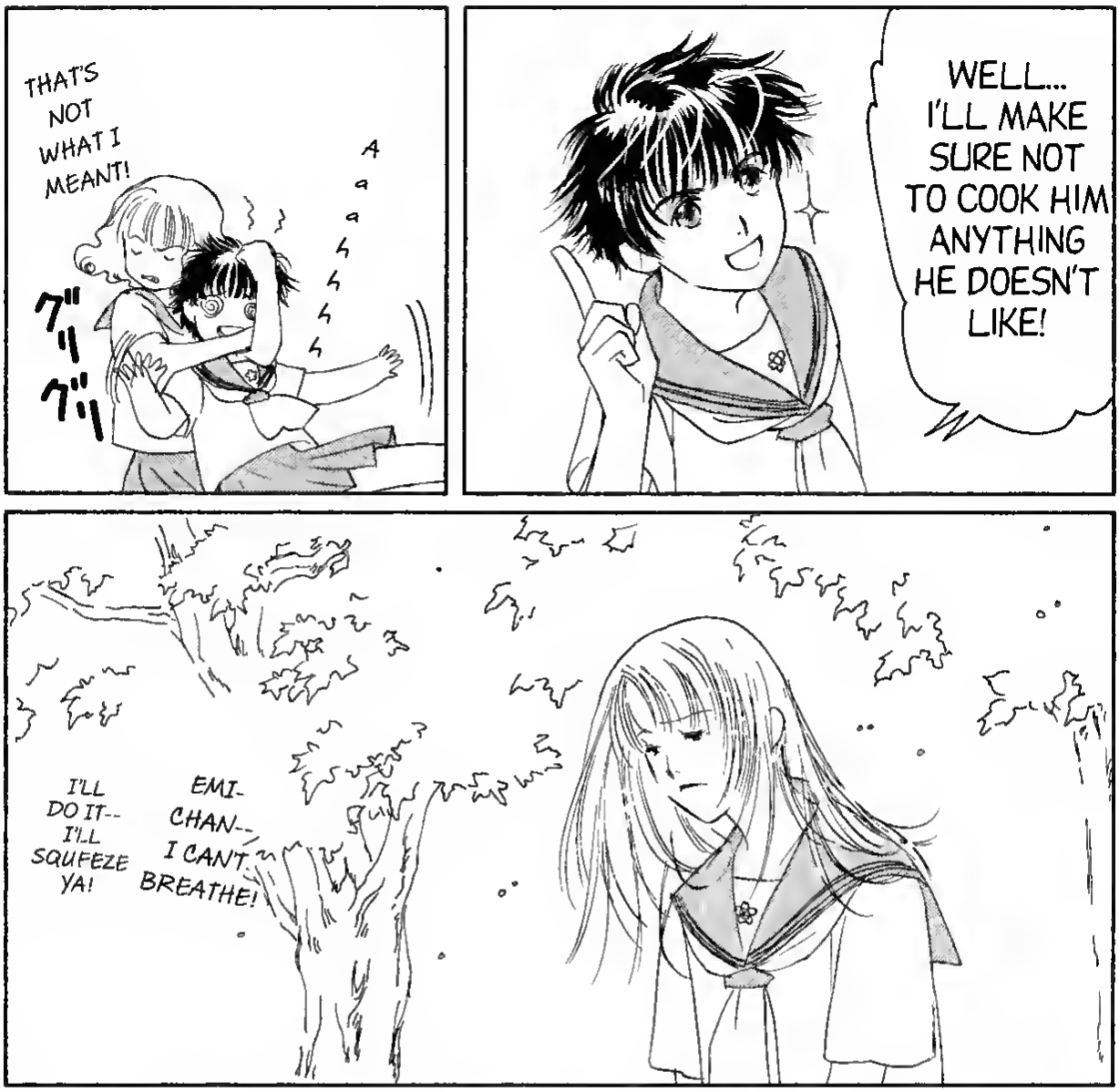


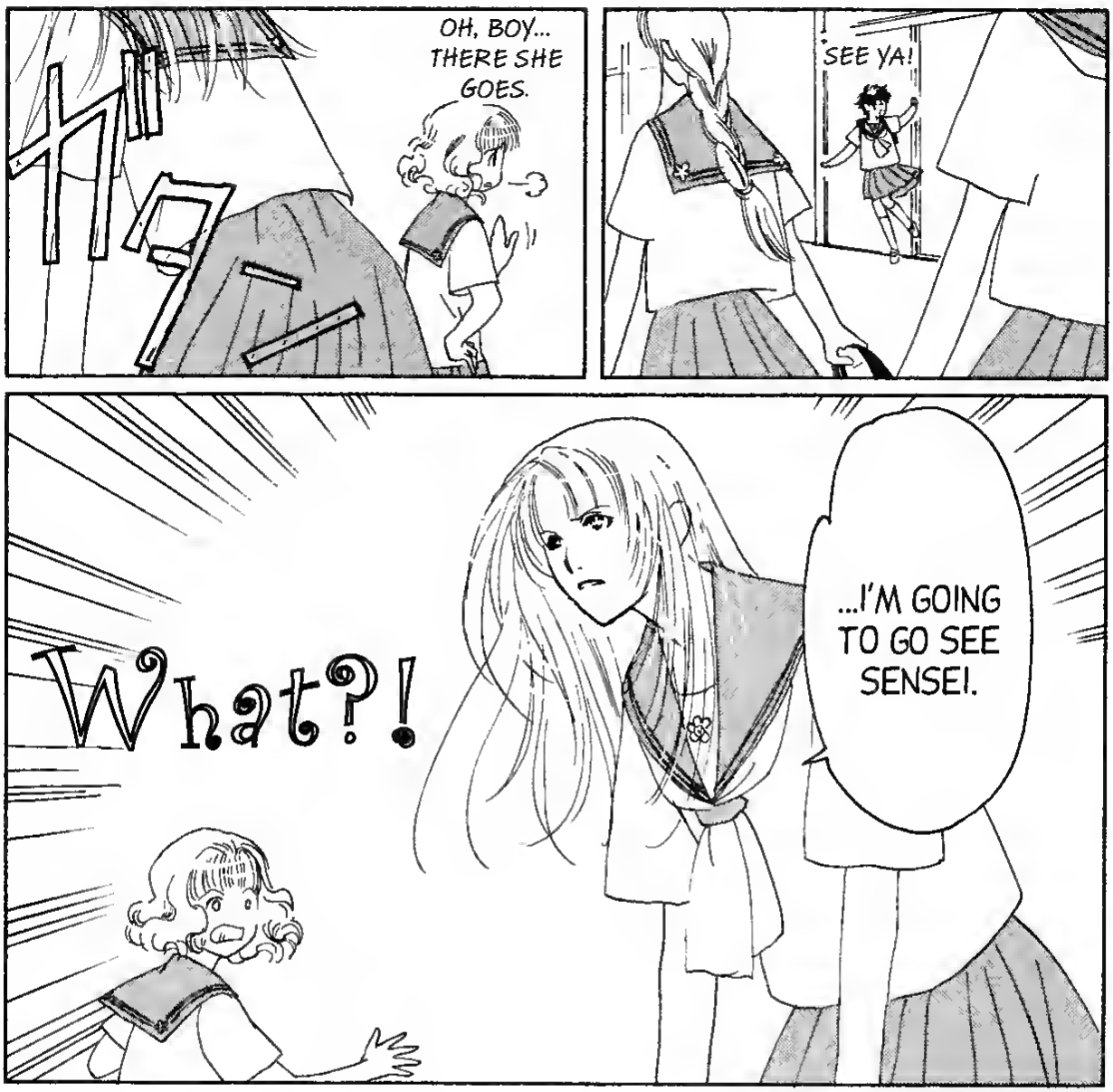
YOU'RE GOING *GROCERY SHOPPING* WITH ASOU-SENSEI?!

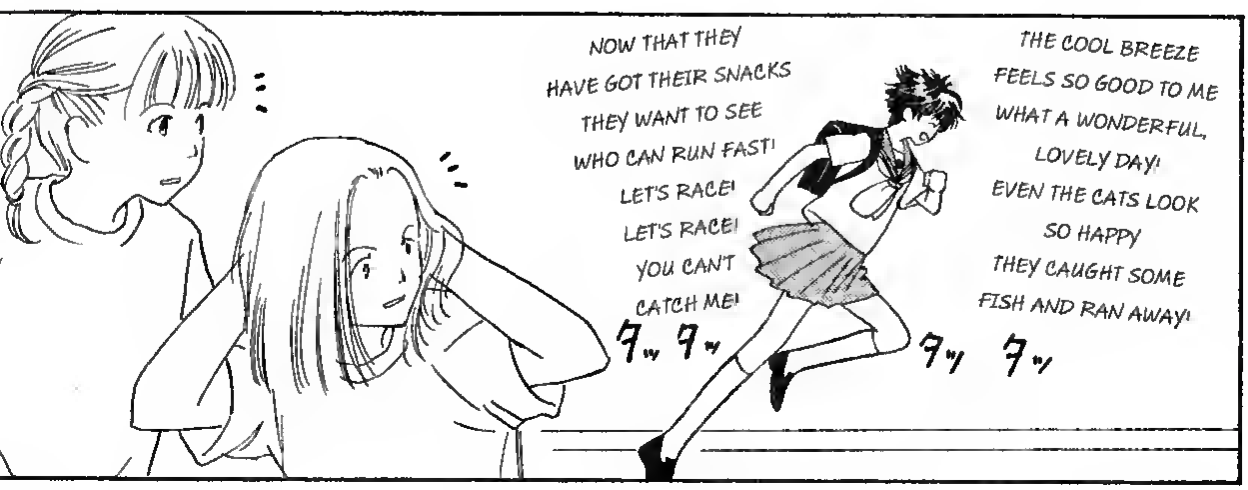

TOUKO-CHAN?
NOT WITH ASOU-SENSEI.
IT'S JUST... ASOU-SENSEI IS...
...WELL, HE'S *DIFFERENT* FROM THE OTHER TEACHERS.
WHY?
WHAT? 'CAUSE HE'S YOUNG?
HE SURE IS!

ASOU-SENSEI DOES ALL THE THINGS I LOVE.
SO I WANT TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME WITH HIM AS I CAN!
BUT... DIDN'T WE TELL YOU? TOO MUCH TIME MIGHT... *INCON-VENIENCE* HIM.
DON'T WORRY! I WON'T BE ANY TROUBLE!
HOW DO YOU KNOW?


THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
グリグリ
Aaaaaaaa
WELL... I'LL MAKE SURE NOT TO COOK HIM ANYTHING HE DOESN'T LIKE!
I'LL DO IT-- I'LL SQUEEZE YA!
EMI-CHAN-- I CAN'T BREATHE!

C'MON, LET'S GET SOME-THING TO EAT.
OKAY!
ALL DONE FOR THE DAY!
いえいえ
TOUKO-CHAN, EMI-CHAN-- SORRY I CAN'T WALK HOME WITH YOU!
'SOKAY. SEE YOU TOMORROW
...BE CAREFUL, HINA.
DON'T WORRY! I WON'T BE THE LEAST BIT INCONVENIENT!


OH, BOY... THERE SHE GOES.
SEE YA!
What?!
...I'M GOING TO GO SEE SENSEI.


NOW THAT THEY HAVE GOT THEIR SNACKS THEY WANT TO SEE WHO CAN RUN FAST! LET'S RACE! LET'S RACE! YOU CAN'T CATCH ME!
THE COOL BREEZE FEELS SO GOOD TO ME WHAT A WONDERFUL, LOVELY DAY! EVEN THE CATS LOOK SO HAPPY THEY CAUGHT SOME FISH AND RAN AWAY!

I'M GOING GROCERY SHOPPING WITH SENSEI! WE'RE GOING TO PICK OUT OUR VERY OWN MENU FOR TONIGHT!
WHAT KIND OF SONG IS THAT, HINA?!
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO PEPPY!
I KNOW! SEE YA!
I'M SO HAPPY!
CHEMISTRY Room

THIS IS SUCH A DIF-FICULT JOB...

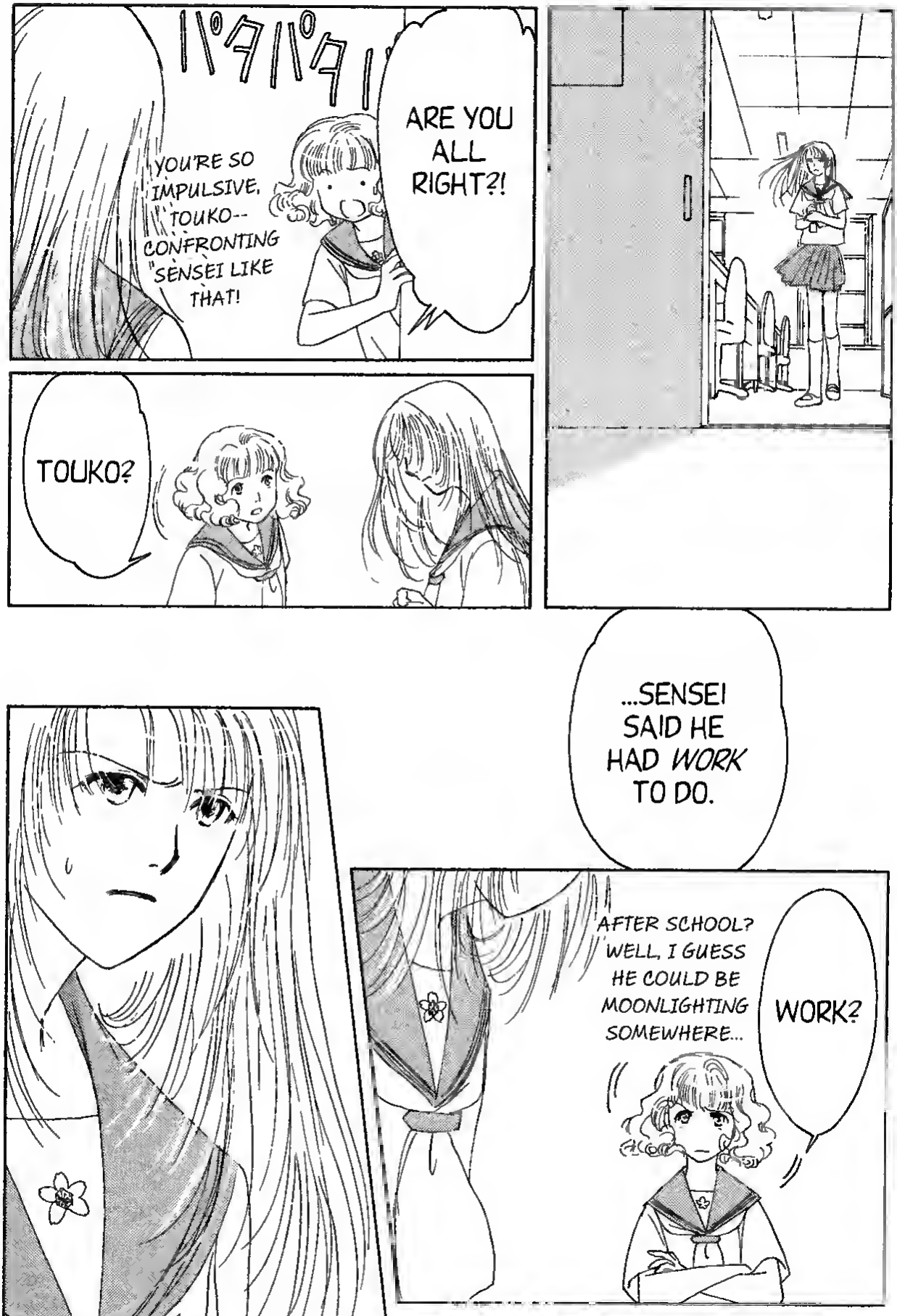
...YES?
I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
WELL, I WAS JUST LEAVING....

WHY ARE YOU WALKING HOME WITH HINA?
BECAUSE WE LIVE NEAR EACH OTHER.
WITH *HINA*?
YES!
IS THAT REALLY SO STRANGE?
THERE ARE SOME GOOD PEOPLE IN THE WORLD...BUT HINA DOESN'T BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE ANY *BAD* PEOPLE... AT ALL!
HINA DOESN'T KNOW THE *MEANING* OF CAUTION!

AM I WRONG?
...ARE YOU SAYING I'M A BAD PERSON?

...NO.

CHEMISTRY ROOM
ASOU-SENSEI?!
LOCK UP FOR ME, WOULD YOU?
WHAT?! WAIT!
...SORRY. I HAVE WORK TO DO.


パタパタ!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
YOU'RE SO IMPULSIVE, TOUKO-- CONFRONTING SENSEI LIKE THAT!
TOUKO?
...SENSEI SAID HE HAD *WORK* TO DO.
AFTER SCHOOL? WELL, I GUESS HE COULD BE MOONLIGHTING SOMEWHERE...
WORK?

IT'S SO WARM NOW... ALMOST SUMMER!
THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER, TOO.
I CAN'T WAIT FOR SUMMERTIME AND I HOPE SENSEI GETS HERE SOON COME ON SENSEI, COME ON, COME ON...
WHEN SUMMER COMES, I'LL HAVE LOTS OF TIME... SO MUCH PLAYING, SO MUCH TO DO!
IT'S SENSEIIII!
yayyyy!
ULP!

JUST... KNEW?
OH... I JUST KNEW!
OR THAT I WAS BEHIND YOU...?
HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WAS ME?
YIPPEE, YIPPEE! GROCERY SHOPPING! WHAT SHALL I MAKE FOR DINNER TODAY?
BY YOUR FOOTSTEPS. AND I KINDA FELT SOMETHING WARM BEHIND ME, TOO.
SENSEI'S WARMTH!
YOU KNOW...
OH, I SEE... LIKE A DOG.
IT'S JUST LIKE SMELLS, I GUESS! SOMETHING THAT TELLS ME WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING!

UH-HUH. I HAD ONE AT MY OLD HOUSE!
THAT MUCH, HUH?
ENOUGH TO BE ONE?
AND NOW?
WITH A HOUSE THAT BIG, YOU SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM KEEPING A DOG
THAT COM-PARISON MAKES YOU HAPPY?
A DOG?! REALLY?!
yayyyy
SURE! I LOVE DOGGIES!
...IF YOU WEREN'T THERE?
OH, I DON'T HAVE ONE ANYMORE. IT WOULD BE SAD IF I WEREN'T THERE.

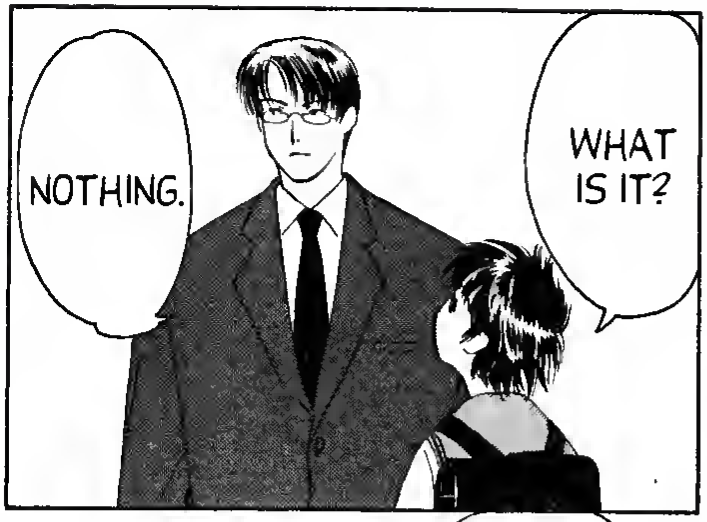
AT MY OLD HOUSE, THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMEONE AROUND WHO COULD TAKE THE DOG OUT FOR WALKS OR FEED HIM.
BUT NOW, I'M ALL ALONE.
WELL, THAT'S HOW IT WAS BEFORE.

THIS SUPERMARKET SELLS VEGETABLES REALLY CHEAP!
OH!
パタパタ
YOU LIKE VEGGIES, RIGHT, SENSEI? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT?
PICKLES ARE COMING INTO SEASON, TOO!
YOU SURE IT'S NOT TOO HEAVY, SENSEI?
NAH. NOT REALLY.
WE BOUGHT LOTS AND LOTS O' VEGGIES! AND LOTS O' VEGGIES CALLS FOR NABE!

*Nabe single pot stewed dishes, usually prepared at the table

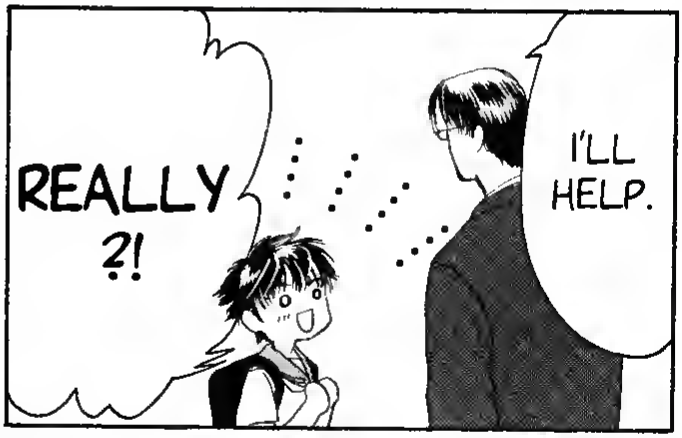
SOMEONE STEPPED ON THE FLOWERS...
...POOR FLOWERS!

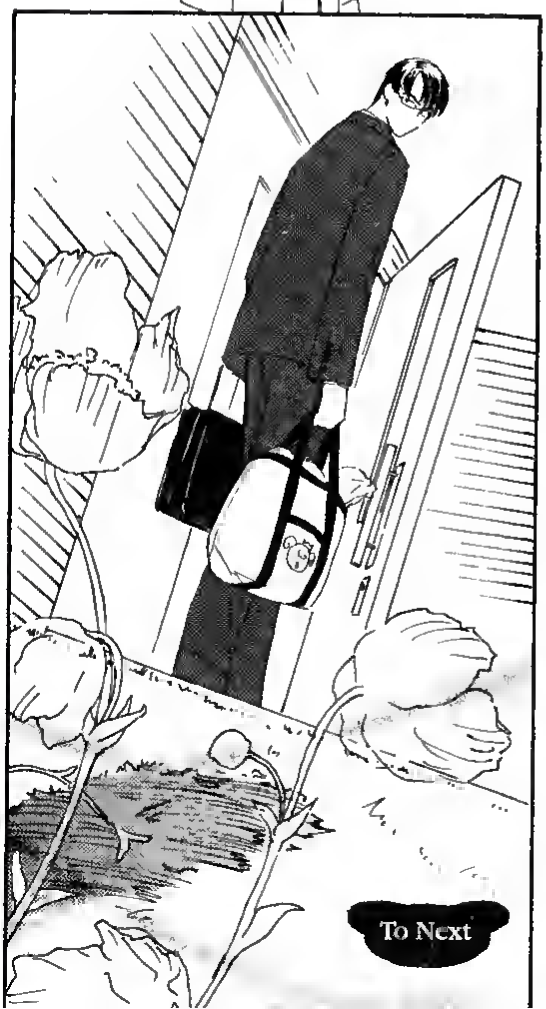
IT LOOKS LIKE...
...SOMEONE CAME IN THROUGH HERE.
WHO WOULD DO THAT?


WHAT IS IT?
NOTHING.

?
ひょい

YOU WERE GOING TO COOK, RIGHT?
UH-HUH.


I'LL HELP.
REALLY ?!


To Next

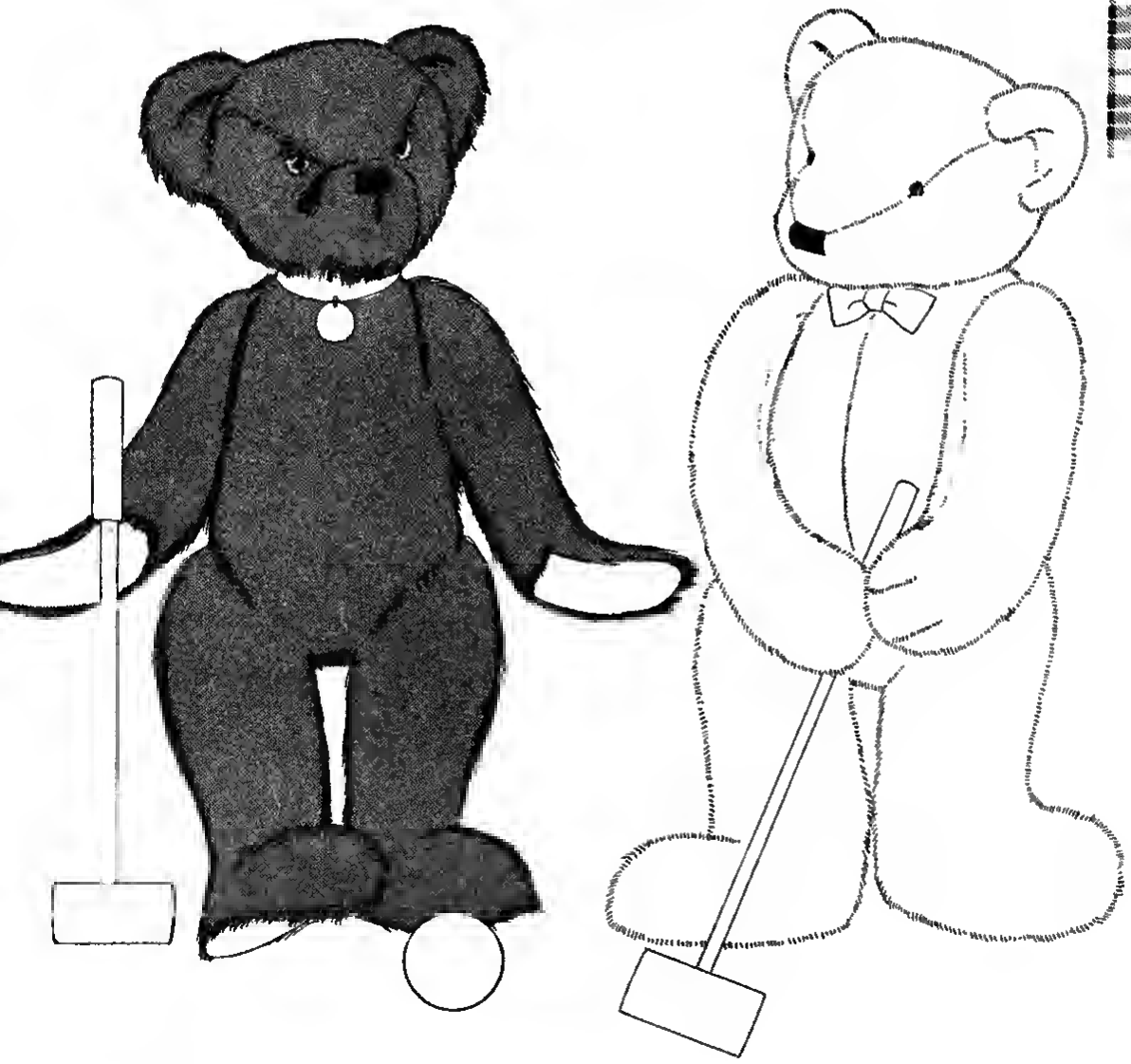
YAYY!

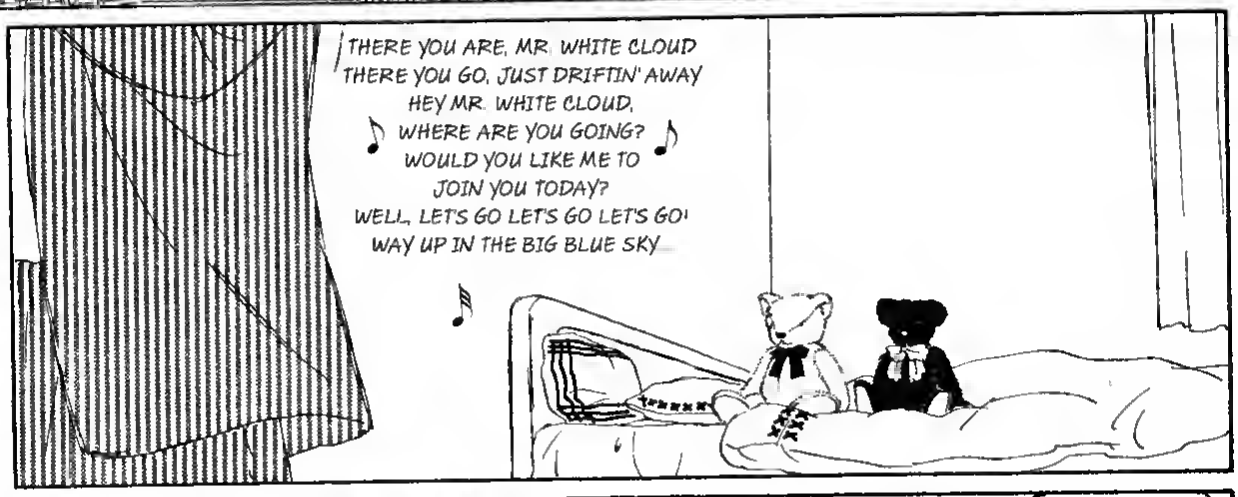
SUKI
TM
7

I LOVE TO GO OUTSIDE.

I LOVE TO HOLD HANDS.

I LOVE TO BE WITH YOU.




THERE YOU ARE, MR. WHITE CLOUD
THERE YOU GO, JUST DRIFTIN' AWAY
HEY MR. WHITE CLOUD,
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO
JOIN YOU TODAY?
WELL, LET'S GO LET'S GO LET'S GO!
WAY UP IN THE BIG BLUE SKY...

I LOVE GOING OUT!
ぎゅっ

COMING!
ピンポーン

SENSEI SAID HE'S GONNA TREAT ME, SINCE HE'S ALWAYS EATING OVER HERE.
GUESS WHAT? I'M GOING OUT TO BREAKFAST WITH SENSEI!
GOTTA GET READY!

ドドド

DO YOU ALWAYS LEAVE YOUR BEARS AT THE ENTRYWAY LIKE THAT?
MY MOM MADE WAKA AND TONO FOR ME.
!!!
THEY ALWAYS SEE ME OFF, AND THEY ALWAYS GREET ME WHEN I COME HOME!
YUP!
SHE WAS SICK, YOU KNOW, SO SHE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL MORE OFTEN THAN AT HOME.
WAKA AND TONO WERE THE LAST BIRTHDAY PRESENTS MY MOM GAVE TO ME.

WAIT...
HOW DID YOU KNOW MY MOM DIED 5 YEARS AGO?
...THEY'RE PRETTY CLEAN FOR SOMETHING MADE 5 YEARS AGO.
I TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEM!
SCHOOL RECORDS?
...IT WAS IN YOUR SCHOOL RECORDS.

SO... WHERE DO YOU WANT TO EAT BREAKFAST?
HUH?
WHAT?
OOH-- NAMIYA-SAN!

もじもじ
YAY! I GET TO SEE NAMIYA-SAN AGAIN!
AGAIN?
UH-HUH! I MET HIM THE OTHER DAY ON MY WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL!
WE JUST TALKED A LITTLE ABOUT MY WORK... THAT'S ALL.
じぃ〜
ちらっ

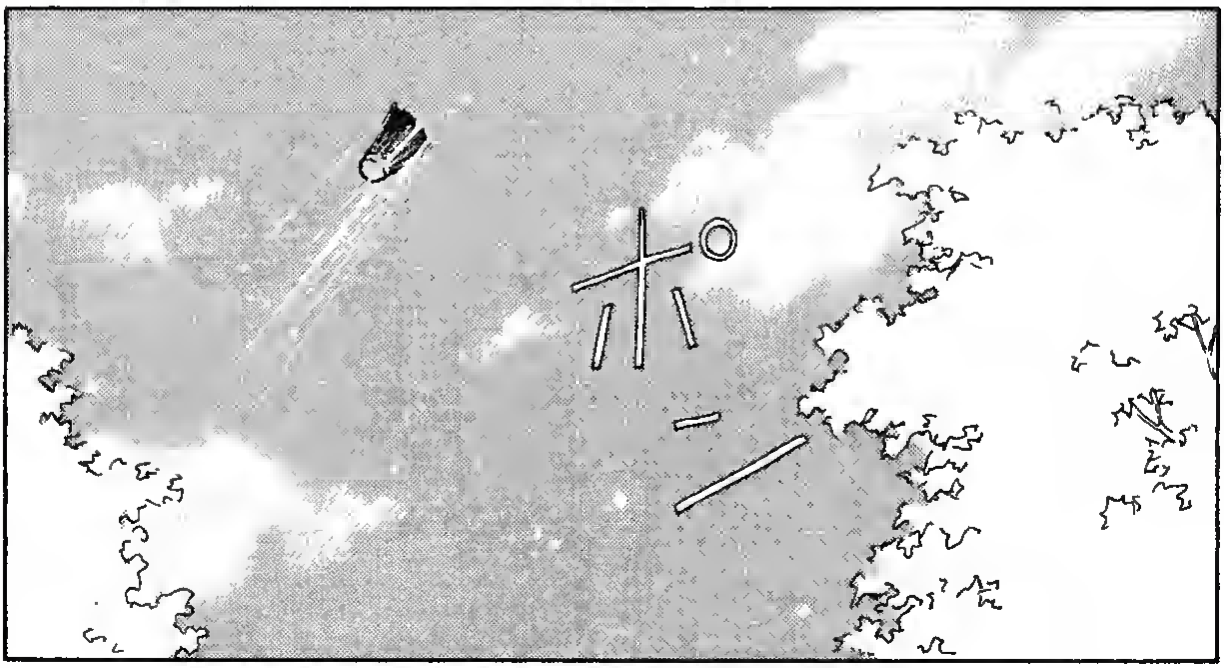
Welcome, sir.
OF SORTS.
THAT'S RIGHT! NAMIYA-SAN IS AN AUTHOR!
WOWWW WOWWW...
DON'T YOU KNOW HIM, SENSEI? WHY DON'T YOU INVITE HIM TO SIT WITH US?

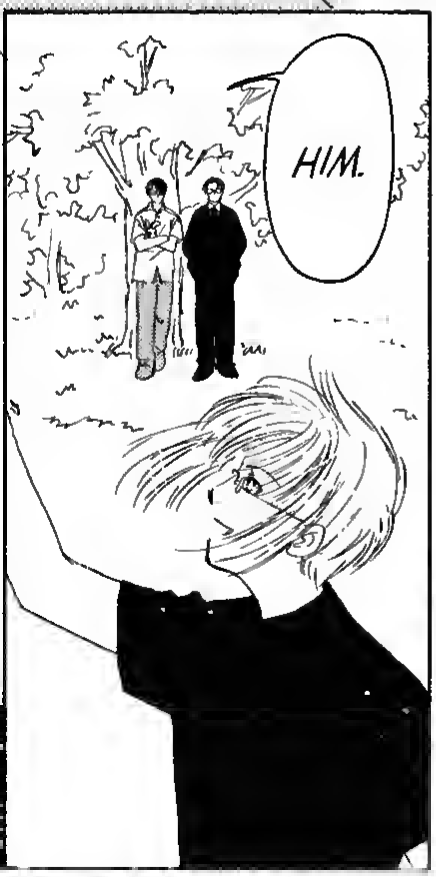
I COULD TELL BY THE LOOK IN YOUR EYES.
...WHY WOULD YOU THINK I KNOW HIM?
ぽくっ

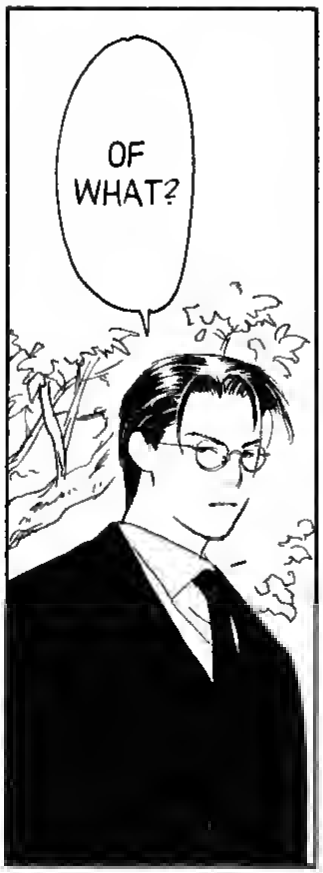
...I AM KIZU.
HI! I'M ASAHI HINATA!
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MASAYA KIZU-SAN!
...MASAYA.
WHAT'S YOUR FIRST NAME?

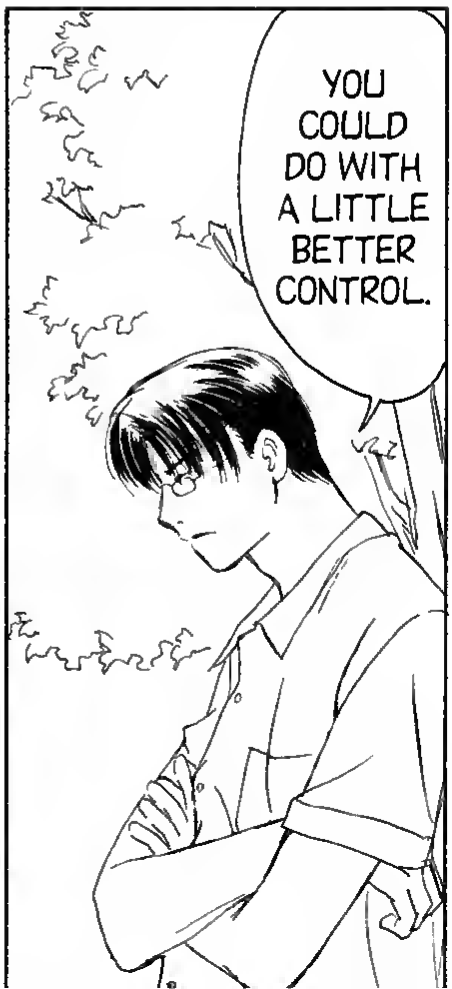
AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE, EH...?
WHEN YOU MENTIONED THAT OLD ACQUAINTANCE, YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT KIZU-SAN, WEREN'T YOU, SENSEI?
HMPH
DO YOU HAVE PLANS RIGHT NOW?
NOT REALLY. I JUST FINISHED MY WORK FOR THE DAY
THEN WHY DON'T WE ALL PLAY TOGETHER?!

YAYYY!!
WELL, IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH *YOU* ASAHI-SAN.




HIM.


OF WHAT?


YOU COULD DO WITH A LITTLE BETTER CONTROL.

WELL, AT LEAST TELL HIM TO STAY OUT OF MY WAY.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. HE WON'T LISTEN TO ME.
WHAT?!
ARE YOU SURE THAT'LL BE ALL RIGHT FOR YOU?
I JUST DON'T THINK YOU'RE EXACTLY... SUITED TO THIS JOB.
LOOK, WORK IS WORK. IF I AGREE TO TAKE A JOB, I'M GOING TO FINISH IT.

WELL, THAT'S JUST IT, ISN'T IT? WORK *IS* WORK. BUT *WORK* DOESN'T SUIT YOU.
I DID IT!
OH, I ONLY WON BY A POINT! I ALMOST LOST.
BUT AGE WAS DEFINITELY THE DECISIVE FACTOR
LOOKS LIKE I'M NO MATCH FOR A HIGH SCHOOL COED.
HEH, HEH
ぽちぽち
HOW OLD ARE YOU, NAMIYA-SAN?

BUT I'M AN OLD MAN COMPARED TO YOU, ASAHI-SAN!
21.
WOW... YOU'RE YOUNGER THAN SENSEI.
HE'S 32.
PLEASE-- I'D LIKE IT BETTER IF YOU CALLED ME HINATA!
OKAY, THEN... HOW ABOUT HINA-CHAN?
OR HINA!
HINA-CHAN!

THAT'S WHAT MY MOM USED TO CALL ME!
TOMOAKI-SAN, RIGHT?
YOU CAN CALL *ME* BY MY FIRST NAME, TOO.
NO ONE'S CALLED ME TOMO-KUN IN AT LEAST 10 YEARS.
REALLY?
TOMO-KUN!

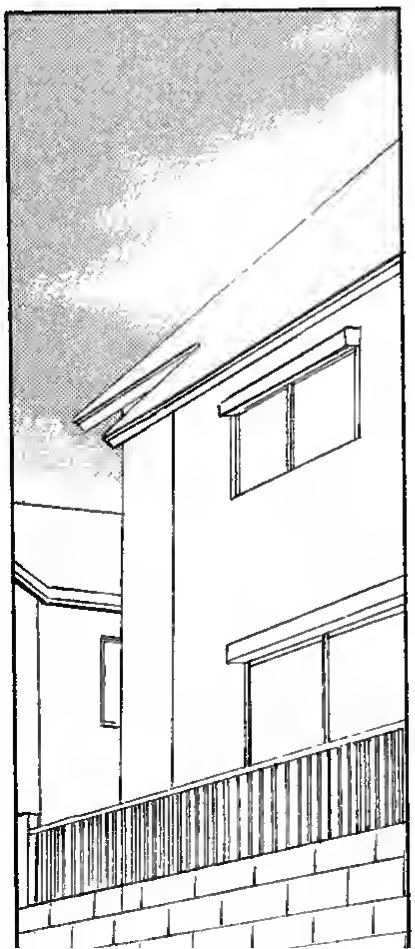
ポン
ポン
ポン
ほっ
?
PARDON ME.
...NO OFFENSE, BUT YOU'RE PRETTY HEAVY.

OH-- SORRY ABOUT THAT!
NO PROBLEM. HERE YA GO!
THANK YOU.
HE WAS TRYING TO PROTECT ME FROM THE BALL.

WELL, SEE YOU LATER.
YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO DO NOW?
YEAH, I HAVE A DEADLINE THIS EVENING.
YOU MEAN FOR YOUR PORNO NOVEL?!
NO. THIS IS A DIFFERENT JOB.
ANOTHER BOOK?!
WOW!
YES.
YOU'LL TELL ME WHEN IT COMES OUT, WON'T YOU?!
OF COURSE.
THAT WAS FUN! LET'S DO IT AGAIN!

...SHE'S A REALLY GOOD GIRL, THAT ASAHI-SAN. I MEAN, HINA-CHAN.

KEEP AN EYE ON THOSE TWO.
...UNDER-STOOD.



TOMO-KUN SAID *HE* LIVES ALONE TOO.
TOMO-KUN BOUGHT ME A BADMINTON SET
BAD-MIN-TON IS SO-MUCH-FUN!
HOPE WE CAN PLAY AGAIN SOMETIME
I LIKE BADMINTON WITH TO-MO-KUN!
TOMO-KUN IS A VERY GOOD PLAYER.
I HOPE HE CAN COME BY FOR DINNER SOMETIME.
I'LL BE LEARNING PLENTY OF NEW RECIPES IN HOME EC!
TOMO-KUN...?
YEAH?
OH!
I WONDER IF KIZU-SAN LIVES ALONE.
NO... NOT FRIENDS.
OH... ARE THEY FRIENDS?
TOMO-KUN AND KIZU-SAN. I MEAN.
IF TOMOAKI COMES, I'M SURE *HE* WILL.
MAYBE HE'LL COME OVER FOR DINNER, TOO!

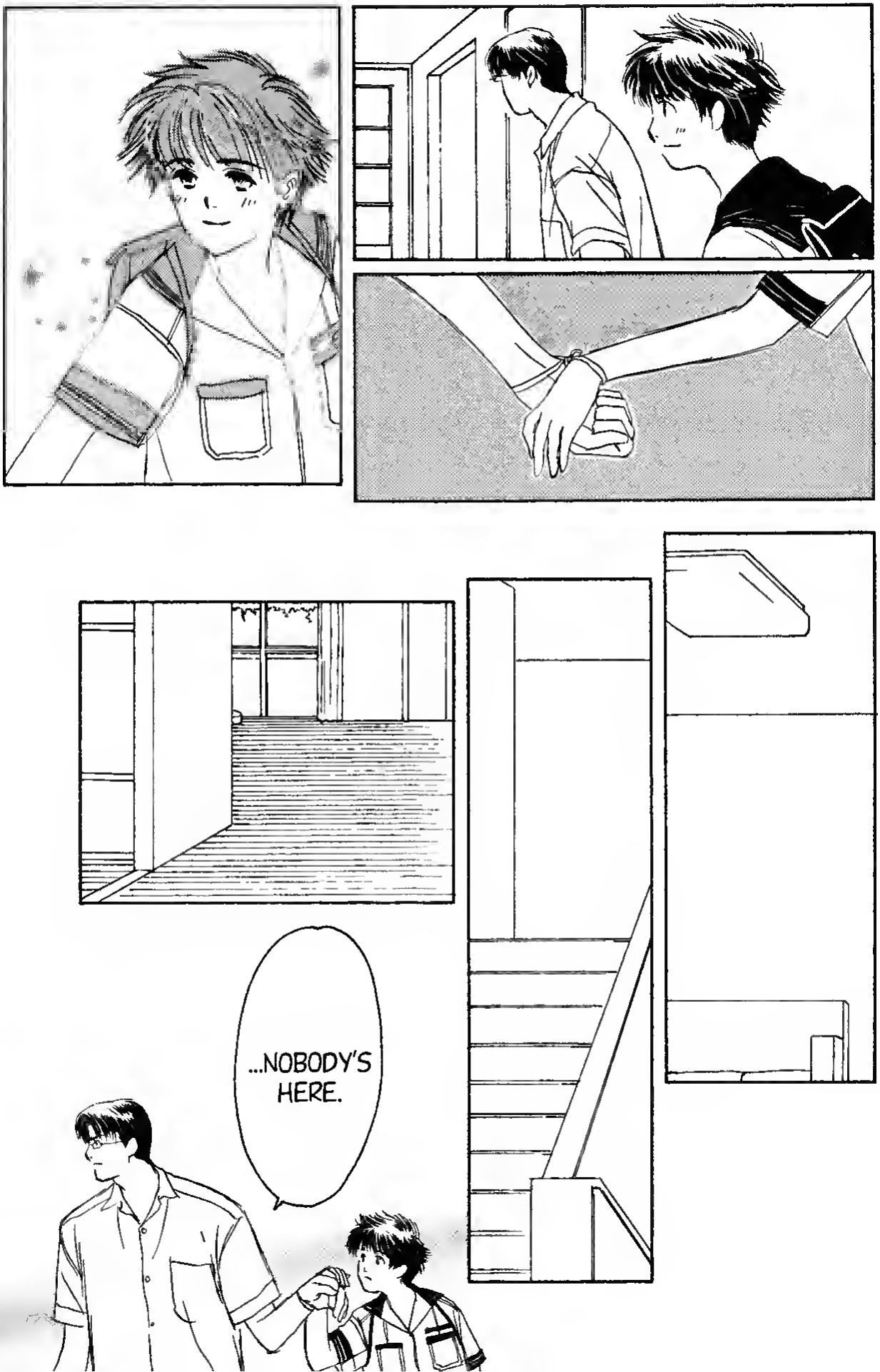
WHY DON'T YOU ASK THEM?
THEN WHAT ARE THEY?
HERE WE ARE!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME IN FOR TEA?
HUH?
I DON'T MIND TREATING YOU... BUT WHY DID I HAVE TO PAY FOR THOSE GUYS, TOO?
THANKS SO MUCH FOR TODAY!

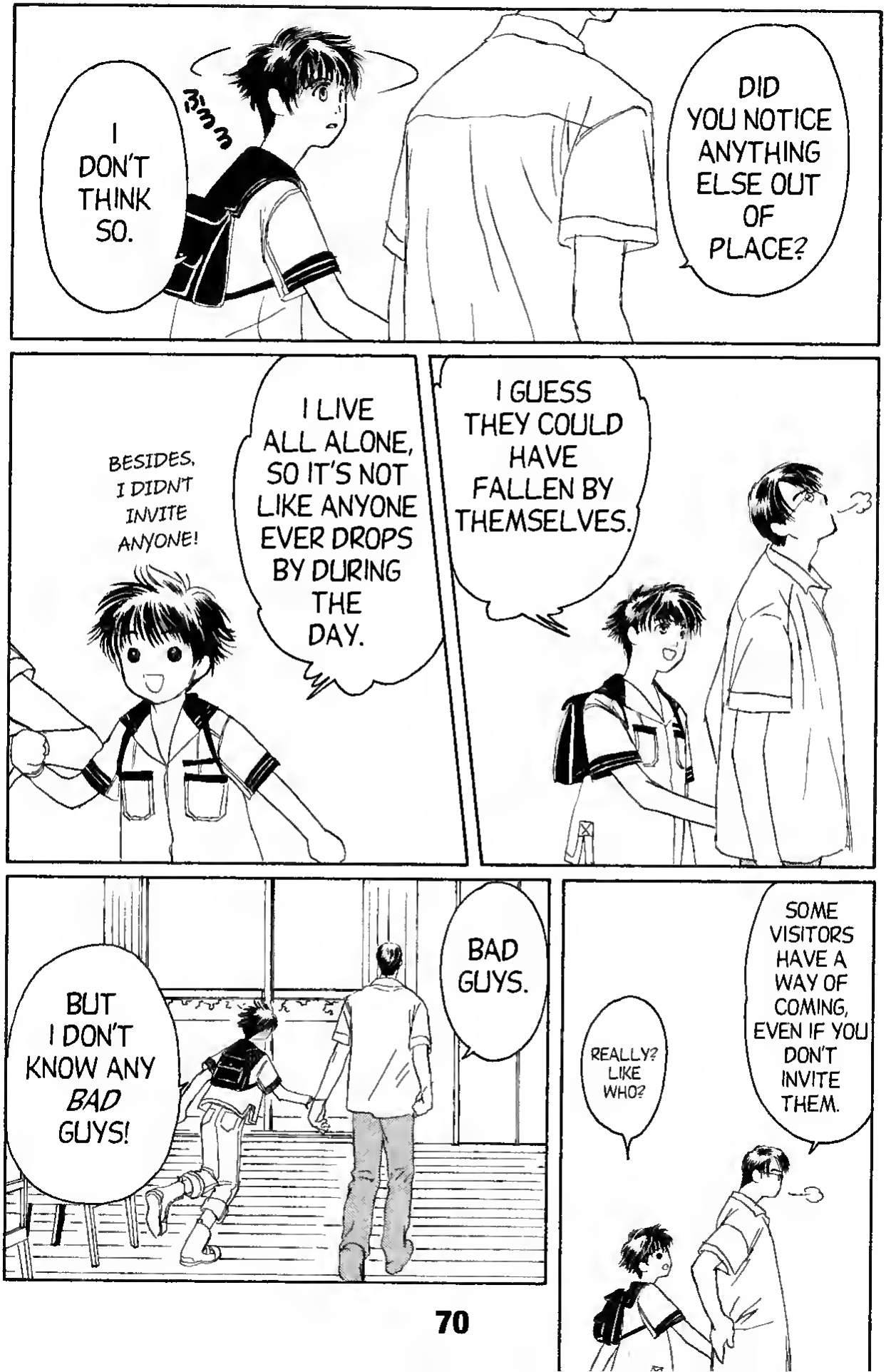
THAT'S WEIRD... TONO AND WAKA FELL DOWN!
HERE YOU GO.
...STAY QUIET.
WHOA--!!

ニュル

こくこく

SENSEI... YOUR SHOES...
コッ


...NOBODY'S HERE.


DID YOU NOTICE ANYTHING ELSE OUT OF PLACE?
HMM
I DON'T THINK SO.
I GUESS THEY COULD HAVE FALLEN BY THEMSELVES.
I LIVE ALL ALONE, SO IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE EVER DROPS BY DURING THE DAY.
BESIDES, I DIDN'T INVITE ANYONE!
SOME VISITORS HAVE A WAY OF COMING, EVEN IF YOU DON'T INVITE THEM.
REALLY? LIKE WHO?
BAD GUYS.
BUT I DON'T KNOW ANY BAD GUYS!

ニィィル
HEY...
...SO THIS IS WHY TOUKO SHINOHARA WORRIES SO MUCH ABOUT YOU.
NO, NOT THAT.
DID THAT HURT?
WELL, IF SOMEONE *HAD* BROKEN IN, WE COULD HAVE BEEN SEPARATED. I DIDN'T WANT TO LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOU.
WHY DID YOU TIE OUR HANDS TOGETHER?
THEN... COULDN'T WE HAVE JUST HELD HANDS?

IF THEY PULLED YOU AWAY FROM ME, IT WOULD'VE BEEN OVER. BUT IF WE WERE TIED TOGETHER, IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN THEM SOME TIME TO CUT THE STRING.
AND THAT WOULD GIVE ME TIME TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION.
ぽん
I GET IT!
THAT'S SO NEAT! HOW DO YOU KNOW STUFF LIKE THAT?!
ギョッ
...YOU'RE REALLY CRAMPING MY STYLE, YOU KNOW THAT?
REALLY?

I'LL GO GET SOME!
OH... DO YOU HAVE ANY RAGS?
I NEED TO WIPE OFF THE FLOOR, SINCE WE WALKED ON IT IN OUR SHOES.

...THAT MAKES ME *REALLY* HAPPY!
OUR HANDS WERE CONNECTED...

I LOVE HOLDING HANDS.
BUT WITH SENSEI, I LOVE IT EVEN MORE.
I HOPE NEXT TIME WE CAN HOLD HANDS WITHOUT THE RIBBON.
To Next

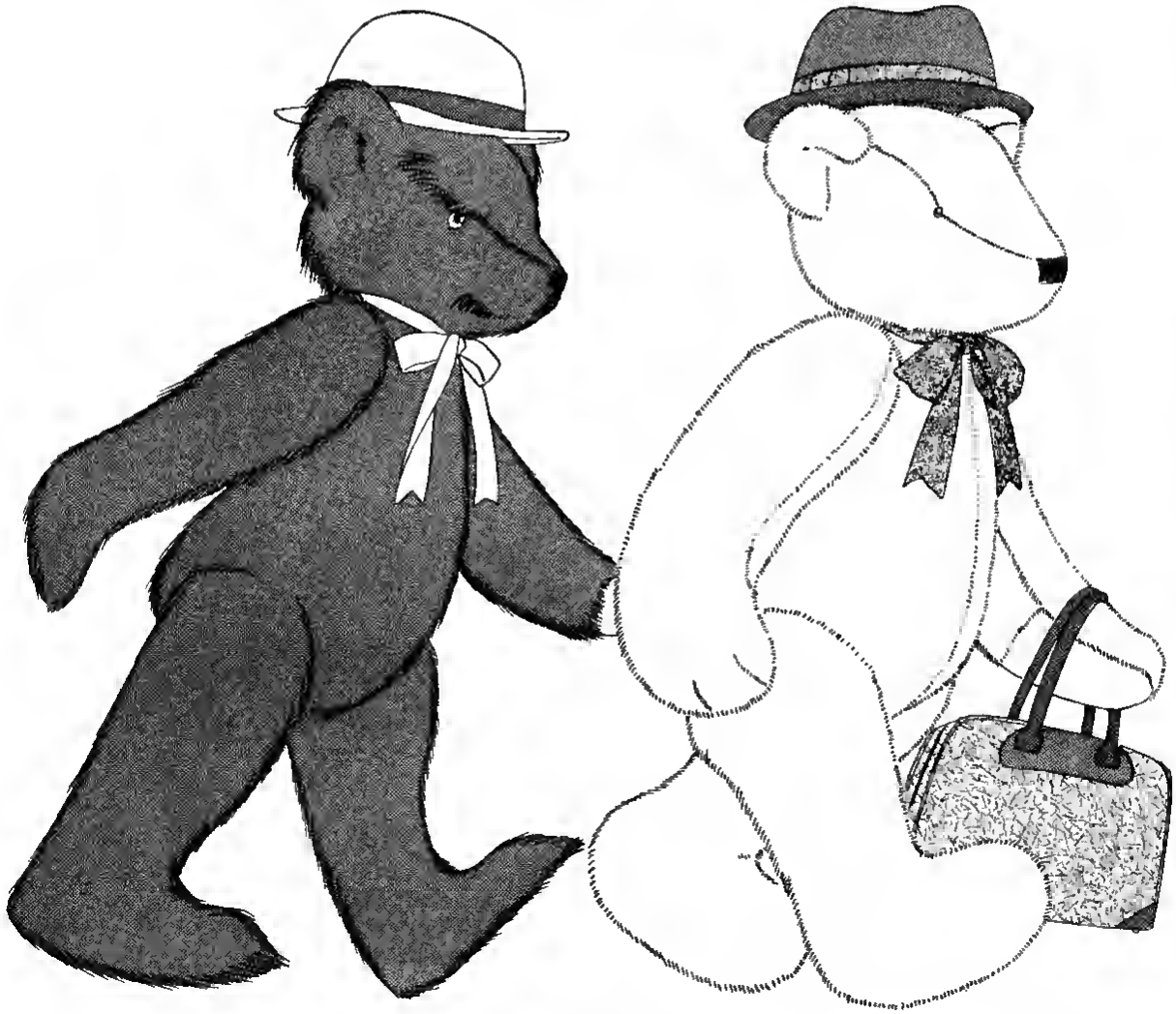
8
Suki™

I LOVE EVERYONE...

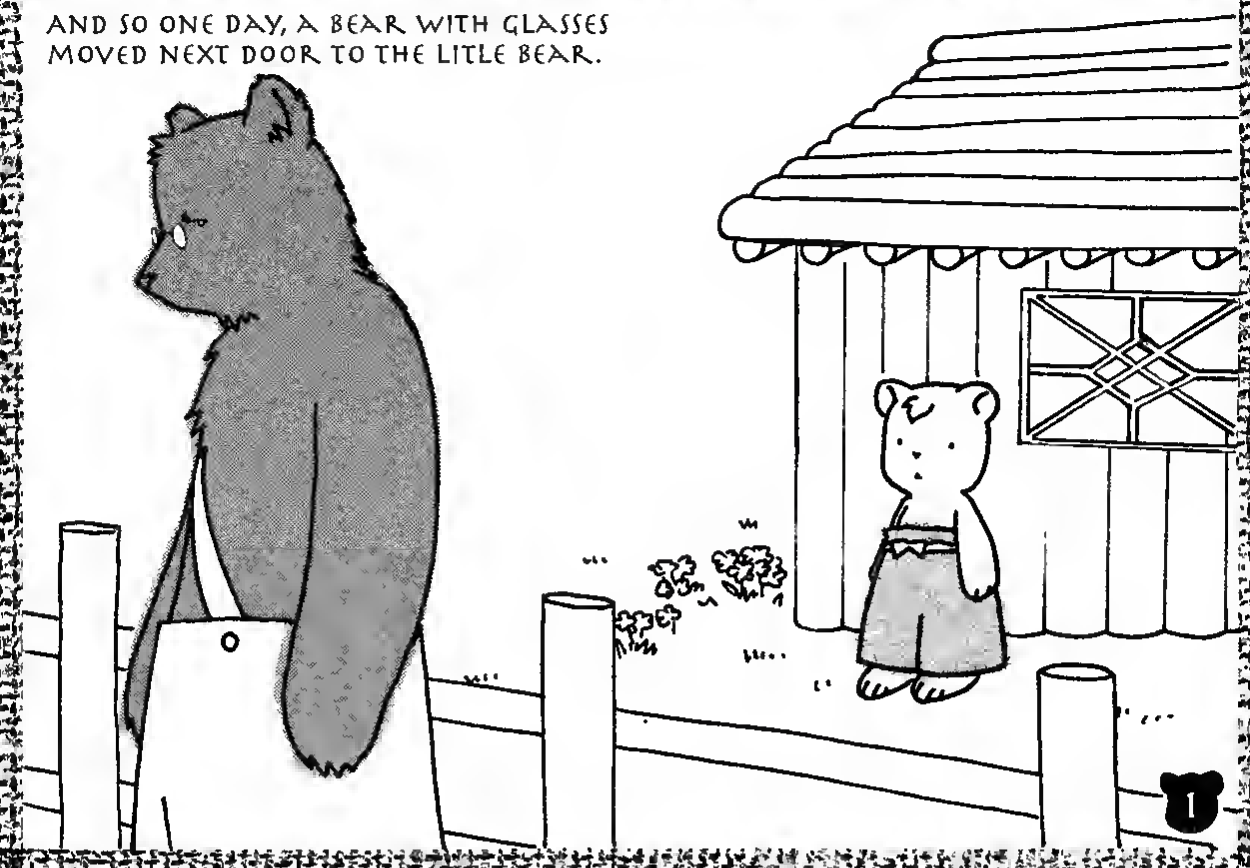
...BUT I ALSO WANT
A DIFFERENT LOVE...

A SPECIAL LOVE.

I WANT TO LOVE YOU THE MOST.



AND SO ONE DAY, A BEAR WITH GLASSES MOVED NEXT DOOR TO THE LITLE BEAR.



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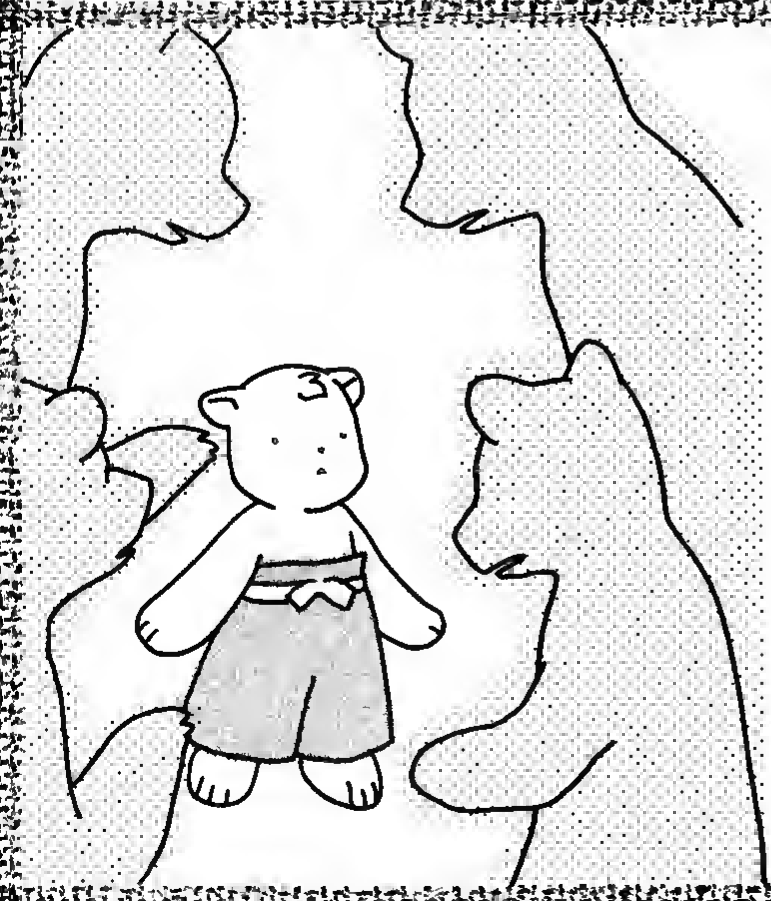


THIS BEAR WAS VERY DARK AND VERY TALL, AND ALWAYS HAD A SCARY LOOK ON HIS FACE.

EVERYONE IN TOWN SAID THIS BEAR HAD ONCE DONE A VERY BAD THING...AND EVERYONE BELIEVED IT, TOO.

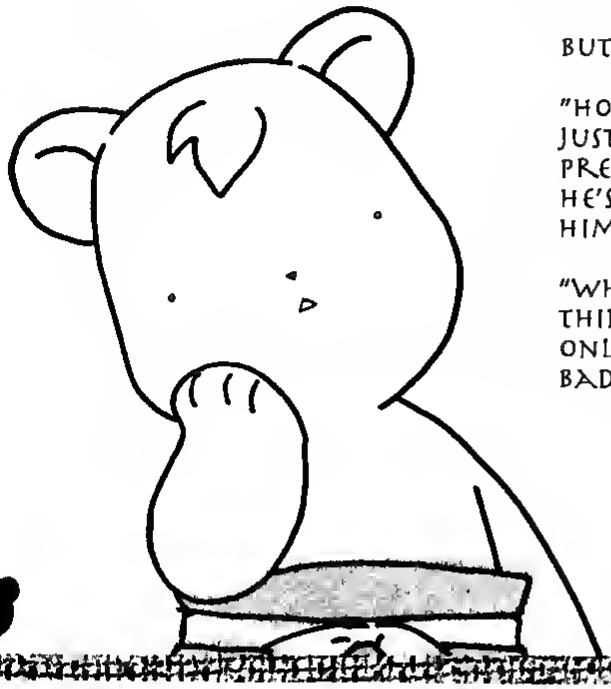
EVERYONE EXCEPT THE LITTLE BEAR.

"DID HE REALLY DO SUCH A BAD THING?" THE LITTLE BEAR ASKED EVERYONE.
"YES, HE DID," EVERYONE REPLIED.
"BUT DID YOU SEE HIM DO IT?" SHE ASKED.
"WE DIDN'T SEE IT, BUT WE KNOW."

SO THEN SHE ASKED, "IF YOU DIDN'T SEE HIM DO IT, HOW CAN YOU BE SURE?"

"SEE FOR YOURSELF," THEY TOLD THE LITTLE BEAR.

2



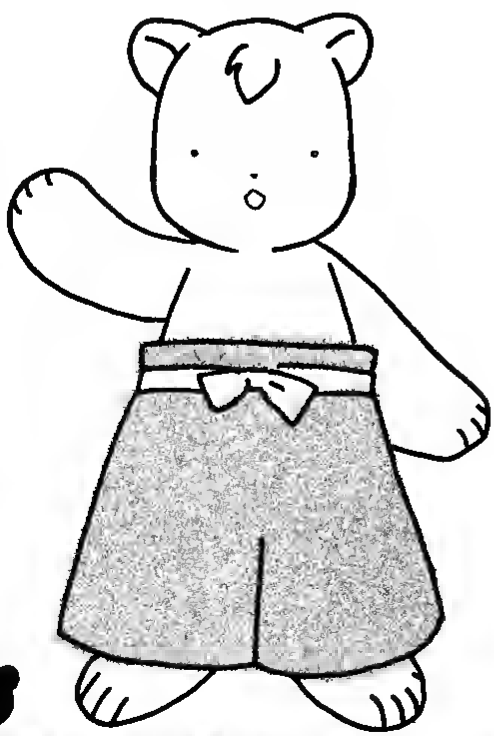
"He never talks to anyone," they said. "He always looks mad, stays at home and never smiles. How could he be anything but a bad bear?"

But the little bear wasn't sure.

"How can you tell he's a bad bear just because he doesn't talk?" she pressed on. "If he doesn't look like he's having fun, does that make him a bad bear?"

"Who knows what that bear is thinking?" everyone replied. "The only possible answer is that he's a bad bear."





"Just because you don't understand him, doesn't make him a bad bear," the little bear protested.

She just couldn't believe what the other bears were saying without proof.

"I want to find out for myself what kind of bear the bear with glasses is," the little bear decided.

And then, she began to get excited.

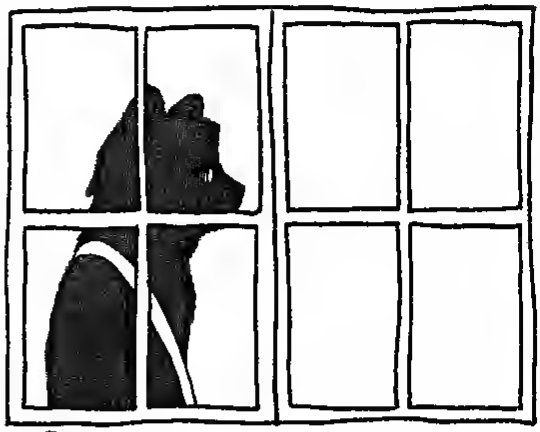
"I know... *I'll* go talk to him! Then maybe I will understand him."

EVERYONE TRIED TO STOP THE LITTLE BEAR.
"YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT," THEY SAID.
"WHO KNOWS WHAT HE MIGHT DO TO YOU?
YOU MIGHT NEVER RETURN."

BUT THE LITTLE BEAR SAID, "I'LL BE FINE."

"YOU SEE, I PASSED BY HIS WINDOW ONCE, AND OUR EYES MET, BUT HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING BAD TO ME. SO I'M SURE I'LL BE ALL RIGHT," SHE SAID.

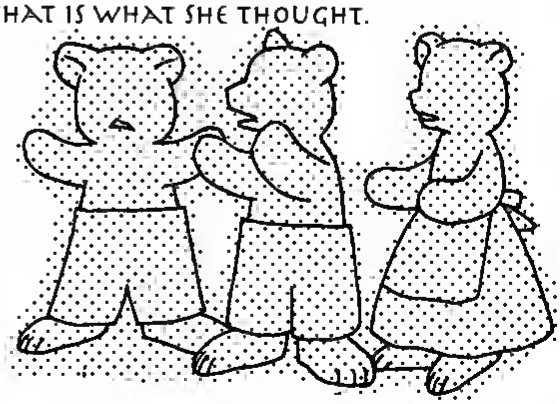
"BEHIND HIS GLASSES, I COULD SEE HE HAD VERY KIND EYES."



"DON'T DO IT," THE OTHER BEARS INSISTED.
"HE'S A BAD BEAR."

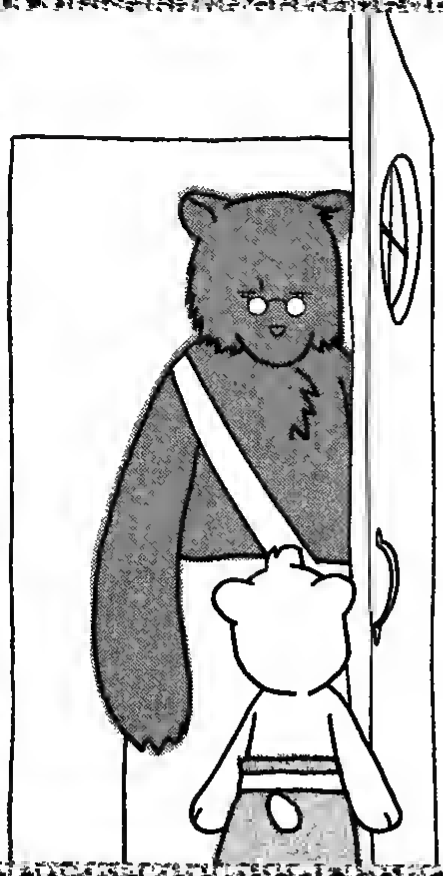
BUT THE LITTLE BEAR IGNORED THEM AND HEADED FOR HER NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE.
AND AS SHE DID, SHE THOUGHT TO HERSELF, "I JUST WANT TO MEET THAT BEAR WITH GLASSES. I JUST WANT TO TALK WITH HIM."

THE LITTLE BEAR DIDN'T KNOW WHY SHE THOUGHT THIS...BUT THAT IS WHAT SHE THOUGHT.



FOR THE LITTLE BEAR DID WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BEAR WITH THE GLASSES. SHE WANTED VERY MUCH TO KNOW IF HE TRULY WAS A BAD BEAR LIKE EVERYONE SAID.

BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T FORGET THE KIND LOOK IN HIS EYES THE ONE TIME THEIR EYES HAD MET.



AND SO THE LITTLE BEAR ARRIVED AT THE HOUSE OF THE BEAR WITH GLASSES.

NERVOUSLY, SHE KNOCKED ON THE DOOR.

AFTER SOME TIME, THE TALL BEAR WITH GLASSES ANSWERED.
"HELLO," SAID THE LITTLE BEAR.

"WHAT DO YOU WANT?" DEMANDED THE BEAR WITH GLASSES. HE LOOKED MEAN AS HE ALWAYS DID.

THE LITTLE BEAR ANSWERED WITH A SMILE, "NOTHING. I JUST CAME BY TO HAVE A CHAT."



BUT THE BEAR WITH GLASSES ANSWERED GRUFFLY, "I HAVE NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT."

AND WITH THAT, HE SHUT THE DOOR.

THE LITTLE BEAR KNOCKED ON THE DOOR AGAIN SEVERAL TIMES.
"REALLY, I JUST CAME TO TALK. PLEASE... OPEN THE DOOR."

BUT THERE WAS NO ANSWER.

FINALLY, THE LITTLE BEAR GAVE UP.

"I'M SORRY. YOU MUST BE VERY BUSY TODAY. I'LL JUST TRY AGAIN TOMORROW."

BUT FROM INSIDE CAME THE BEAR WITH GLASSES' VOICE: "I'M GOING TO BE BUSY TOMORROW TOO."

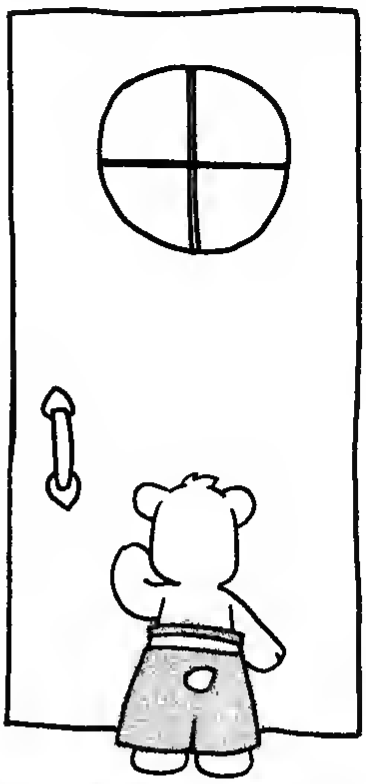
SO THE LITTLE BEAR SAID, "THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, THEN."

"I'M BUSY THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW TOO," THE BEAR WITH GLASSES SAID.

"THEN WHAT ABOUT THE DAY AFTER THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW?"

THE LITTLE BEAR WAS JUST HAPPY THAT THE BEAR WITH GLASSES WAS SPEAKING TO HER.

FINALLY, SHE SAID, "I'LL COME BY EVERY DAY UNTIL YOU DECIDE TO TALK TO ME."



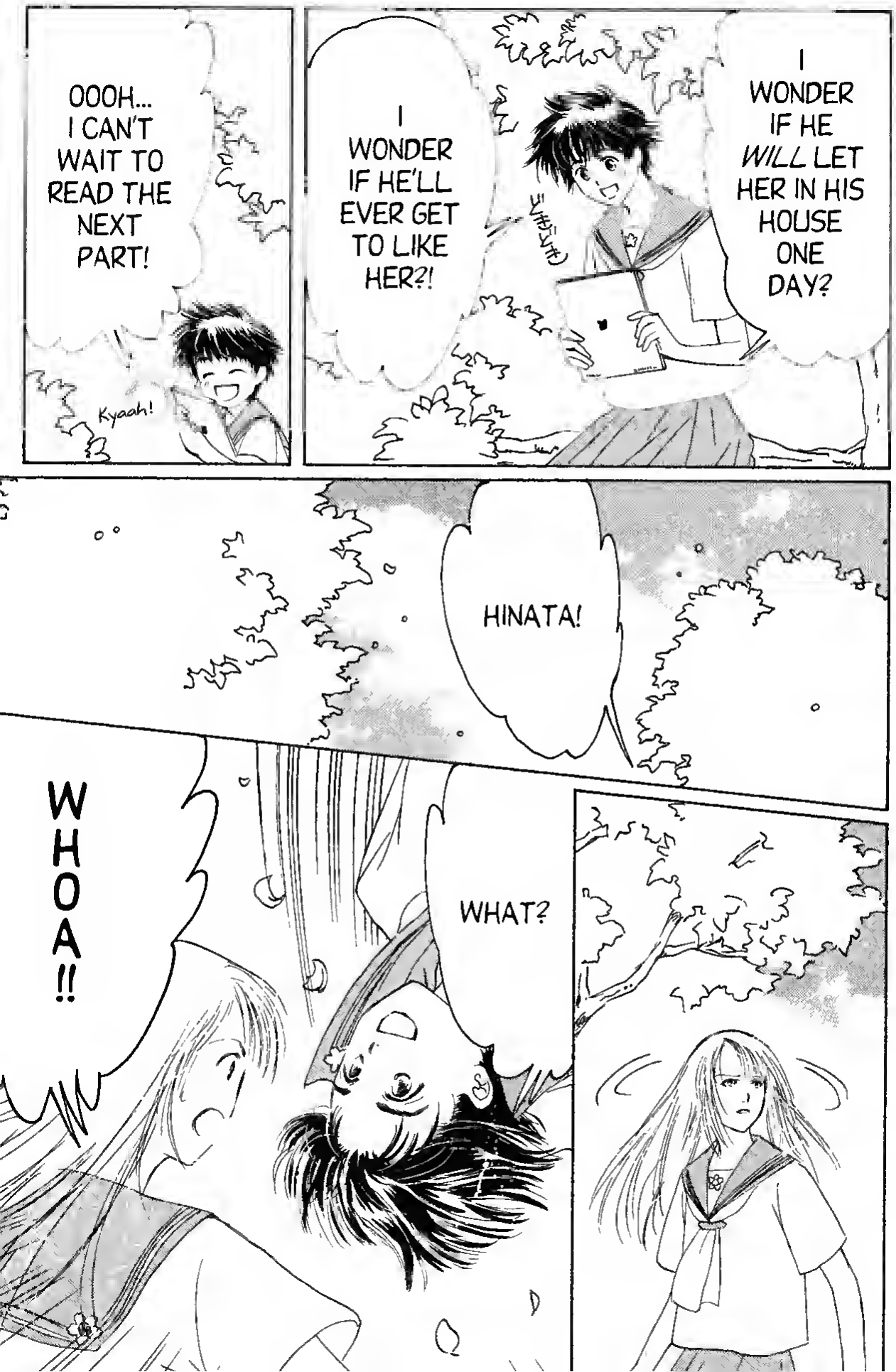
THE BEAR WITH GLASSES GAVE NO ANSWER. BUT HE DIDN'T SAY TO NOT COME, SO THE LITTLE BEAR WAS SATISFIED.

SHE THOUGHT TO HERSELF, "ONE DAY, HE'LL LET ME IN...AND UNTIL THEN, I'LL JUST KEEP TRYING."

AND WITH THAT, THE LITTLE BEAR BEGAN TO FEEL VERY HAPPY INDEED.

TO BE CONTINUED

WHAT A GREAT BOOK...THE BEAR WITH GLASSES REMINDS ME SO MUCH OF ASOU-SENSEI!
SUKI
words and pictures by Tomo
SUK
words and pict
I REALLY DO LIKE THIS STORY!
BUT...
DOES THAT MEAN THE LITTLE BEAR REMINDS ME OF ME...?
WELL, MAYBE THE "LITTLE" PART!
Heh heh!
I WONDER IF THE LITTLE BEAR WILL EVER GET TO TALK TO THE BEAR WITH GLASSES?


OOOH... I CAN'T WAIT TO READ THE NEXT PART!
Kyaah!
I WONDER IF HE'LL EVER GET TO LIKE HER?!
I WONDER IF HE *WILL* LET HER IN HIS HOUSE ONE DAY?
HINATA!
WHAT?
WHOA!!

ANYONE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF YOU POPPED OUT AT THEM LIKE THAT!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU LOOK SURPRISED IN A LONG TIME, TOUKO!
I THINK THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU LOOK SURPRISED WAS WHEN I TOLD YOU I WAS GOING TO LIVE BY MYSELF!
YUP! WE USED TO WALK TO OUR OLD SCHOOL TOGETHER IN THE MORNING, REMEMBER? THAT'S WHEN I TOLD YOU!
THAT WAS TWO YEARS AGO.
...I KNOW.

BUT... DON'T YOU SEE? IF THIS KEEPS UP, THERE'S GOING TO BE A *TENTH* TIME!
HUH?
WHEN I GOT HOME AFTER THE NINTH TIME, DAD GOT REALLY ANGRY.
THAT'S WHEN I DECIDED I WAS GOING TO LIVE BY MYSELF.
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LOOK, I DON'T THINK YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF I TALK ABOUT THIS IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY...SO I'M GOING TO BE BLUNT.
I'VE TALKED TO ASOU-SENSEI.
ABOUT WHAT?

ABOUT... ME?
ABOUT HINA.
BUT SENSEI ISN'T A BAD PERSON.
YES. I TOLD ASOU-SENSEI I THOUGHT HE WAS A BAD PERSON...AND HE ALL BUT AGREED WITH ME!
THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT HIM!
HE'S NOT AN ORDINARY SENSEI!
NO, LISTEN TO THIS... HE ALSO SAID HE HAS ANOTHER JOB, AFTER SCHOOL HOURS...!

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT THE OTHER NINE.
NO... SENSEI IS A KIND AND GOOD PERSON.
YES, I DID.
THAT'S WHY I WAS ABLE TO COME BACK... AND THAT'S WHY I'M STILL HERE NOW.
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YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU, HINA?!

AND THERE ARE LOTS OF *BAD PEOPLE* OUT THERE WHO DON'T *LIKE* HIM BECAUSE OF THAT!
YOU MIGHT NOT THINK ANYTHING OF IT, BUT YOUR DAD IS RICH!
WHAT IF ASOU-SENSEI IS *ONE* OF THOSE PEOPLE?!
THOSE BAD PEOPLE MIGHT DO SOMETHING BAD TO *YOU* IF THEY WANT HIS MONEY BADLY ENOUGH!

I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE KIDNAPPED AGAIN... I DON'T THINK I'D BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT!
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スル:

THANK YOU.

I REALLY LOVE YOU, TOUKO-CHAN. I DON'T EVER WANT YOU TO CRY.
I ONLY WANT TO SEE YOU SMILE!
AND... THANKS TO YOU, I THINK I UNDERSTAND MY OWN FEELINGS NOW.

I JUST WANT TO BE WITH ASOU-SENSEI.
I'M LIKE THE LITTLE BEAR IN THIS BOOK... I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ASOU-SENSEI!
I WANT TO FIND OUT FOR MYSELF...AND I WANT TO LOVE HIM EVEN MORE.

THAT'S RIGHT. I LOVE ASOU-SENSEI.
NOT IN THE WAY I LOVE EVERYONE ELSE...IN A *SPECIAL* WAY.
SUKI
words and pictures by
THAT'S WHY I WANT HIM TO LOVE ME BACK.

YOU'RE SO STUBBORN, HINA. SO I KNOW YOU WON'T LISTEN TO ME...
DON'T WORRY.
...BUT I'LL TELL YOU THIS. IF ASOU-SENSEI DOES *ANYTHING* TO MAKE YOU CRY...EVEN *ONCE*...I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM.
SO I PROMISE... I WON'T CRY.
WHEN YOU REALLY LOVE SOMEONE, YOU JUST GET THIS GENTLE, WARM FEELING.

EMI-CHAN!
THAT'S ONLY IF YOU BOTH FEEL THE SAME WAY, Y'KNOW.
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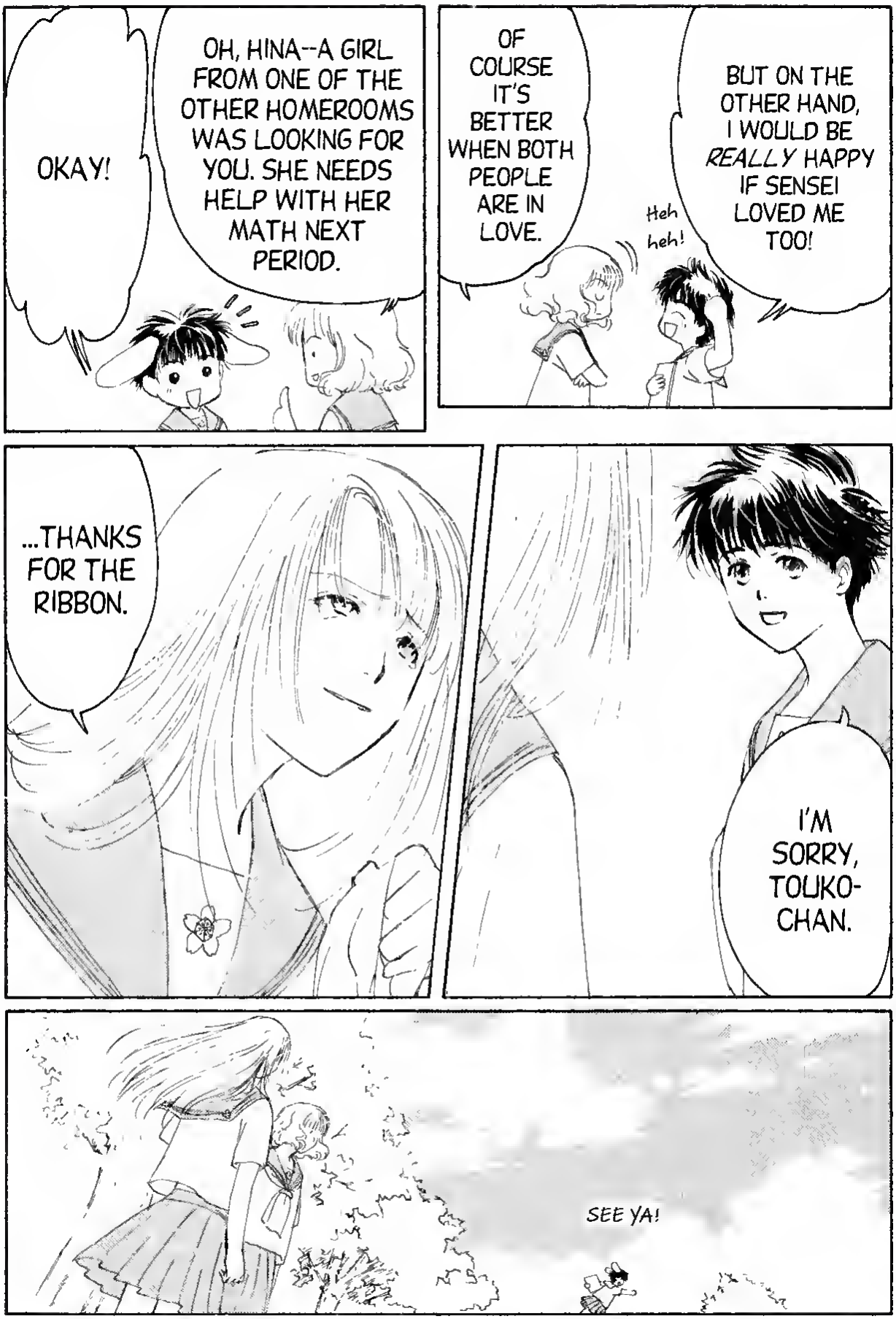
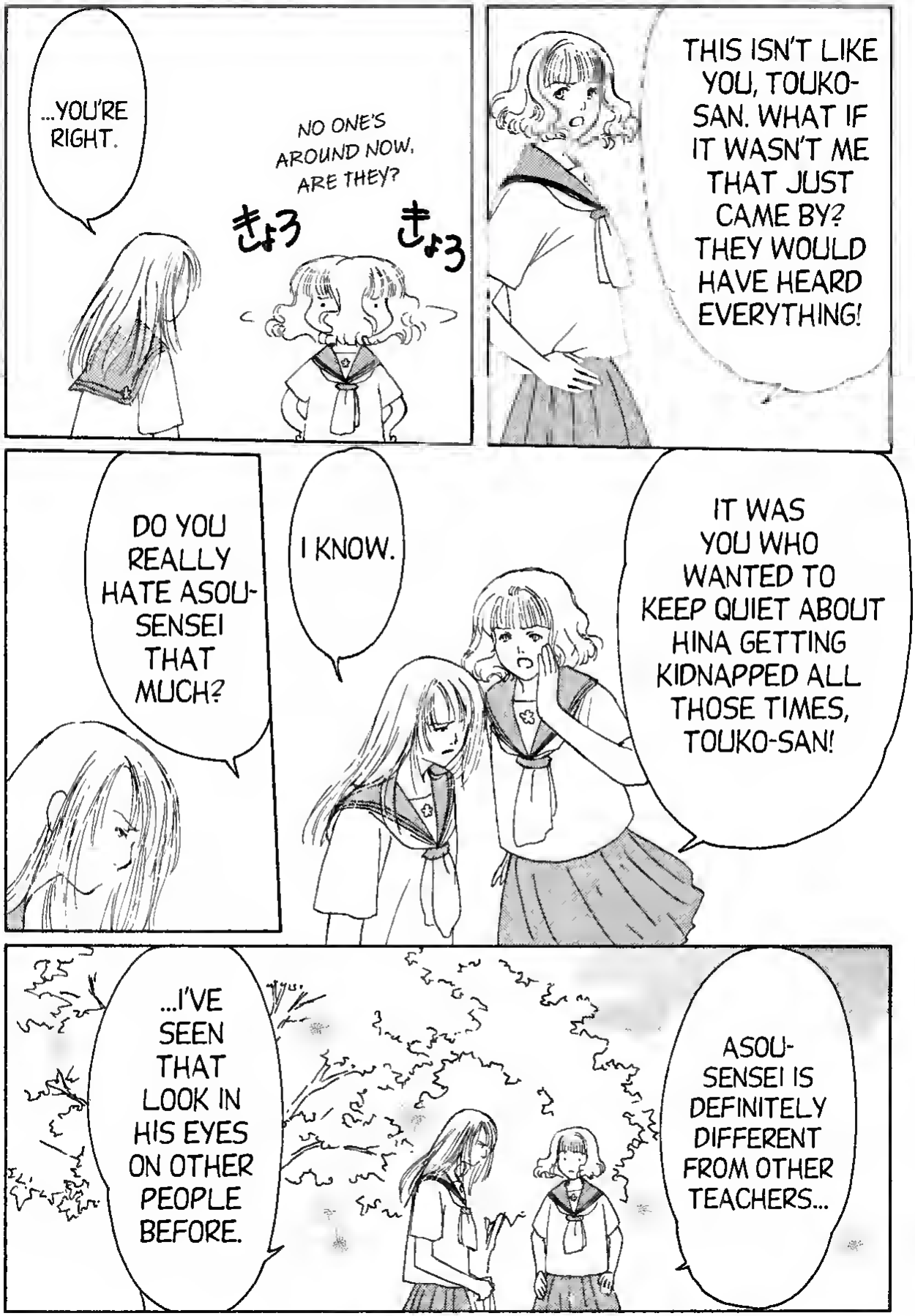
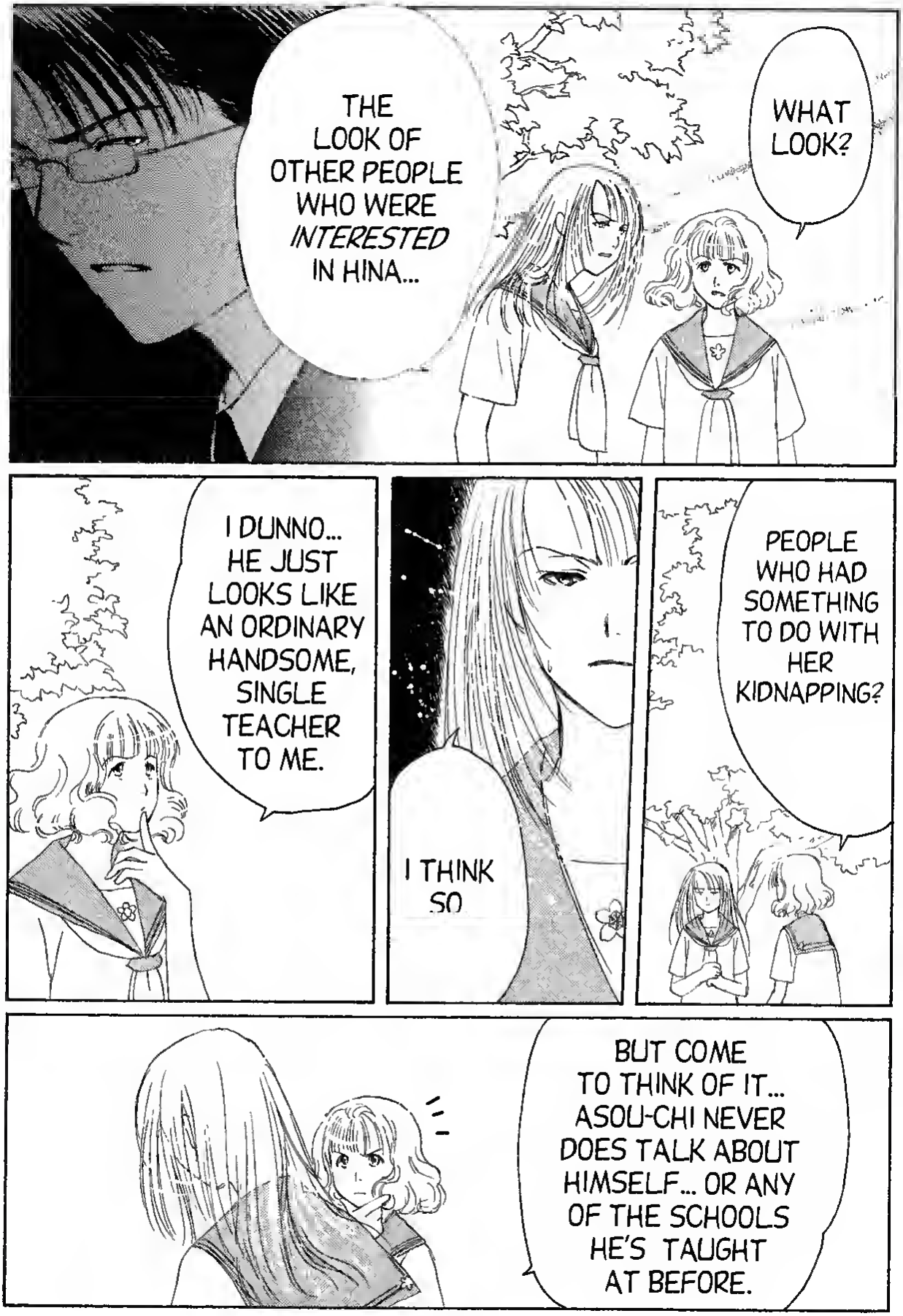
ぷる
OH, NO!
BUT DO YOU THINK HE DOES?
LOOK, HINA. IF ASOU-CHI LOVES YOU TOO, THEN FINE. HAPPILY EVER AFTER, RIGHT?
YUP!
SO THIS IS JUST UNRE-QUITED LOVE.

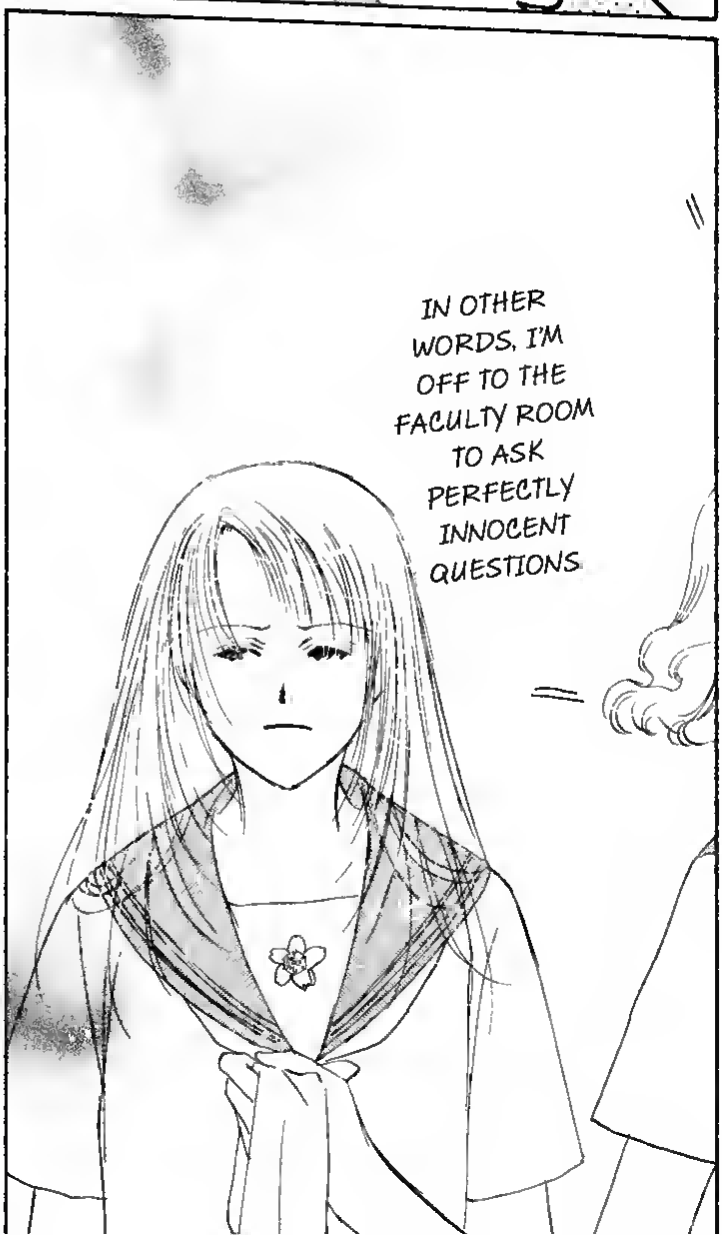
THEN WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT NOT CRYING?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA *DO* IF HE TURNS YOU *DOWN*?!
WELL, SENSEI MOVED NEXT DOOR TO ME BY COINCIDENCE. BUT HE WOULD DO ALL THE THINGS I LOVE ANYWAY...
EVEN IF I AM JUST HIS NEIGHBOR AND HIS STUDENT.
AND MY FEELINGS TOWARD SENSEI AREN'T GOING TO CHANGE...EVEN IF HE DOES END UP WITH SOMEONE ELSE!


OKAY!
OH, HINA--A GIRL FROM ONE OF THE OTHER HOMEROOMS WAS LOOKING FOR YOU. SHE NEEDS HELP WITH HER MATH NEXT PERIOD.
OF COURSE IT'S BETTER WHEN BOTH PEOPLE ARE IN LOVE.
Heh heh!
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, I WOULD BE *REALLY* HAPPY IF SENSEI LOVED ME TOO!
...THANKS FOR THE RIBBON.
I'M SORRY, TOUKO-CHAN.
SEE YA!


...YOU'RE RIGHT.
NO ONE'S AROUND NOW, ARE THEY?
きょろ
きょろ
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU, TOUKO-SAN. WHAT IF IT WASN'T ME THAT JUST CAME BY? THEY WOULD HAVE HEARD EVERYTHING!
DO YOU REALLY HATE ASOU-SENSEI THAT MUCH?
I KNOW.
IT WAS YOU WHO WANTED TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT HINA GETTING KIDNAPPED ALL THOSE TIMES, TOUKO-SAN!
...I'VE SEEN THAT LOOK IN HIS EYES ON OTHER PEOPLE BEFORE.
ASOU-SENSEI IS DEFINITELY DIFFERENT FROM OTHER TEACHERS...


THE LOOK OF OTHER PEOPLE WHO WERE *INTERESTED* IN HINA...
WHAT LOOK?
I DUNNO... HE JUST LOOKS LIKE AN ORDINARY HANDSOME, SINGLE TEACHER TO ME.
I THINK SO
PEOPLE WHO HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH HER KIDNAPPING?
BUT COME TO THINK OF IT... ASOU-CHI NEVER DOES TALK ABOUT HIMSELF... OR ANY OF THE SCHOOLS HE'S TAUGHT AT BEFORE.

TIME FOR THE *EMI NETWORK* TO START DIGGING UP SOME DIRT ON ASOU-SENSEI!
THAT SETTLES IT!


IN OTHER WORDS, I'M OFF TO THE FACULTY ROOM TO ASK PERFECTLY INNOCENT QUESTIONS.

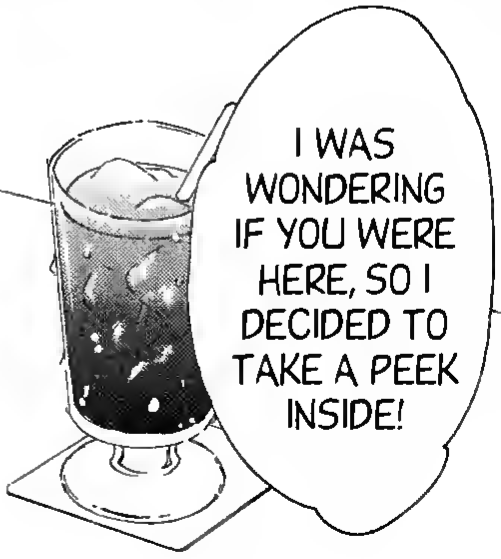
I DIDN'T GET TO WALK HOME WITH ASOU-SENSEI TODAY.
AND HE WASN'T IN HOMEROOM, EITHER... I WONDER IF HE HAD SOMETHING ELSE TO DO?
WELL, HE MIGHT COME OVER FOR DINNER, SO I'D BETTER COOK FOR TWO ANYWAY!
ほにゃ～
I LOVE EATING WITH OTHER PEOPLE...
...BUT I LOVE EATING WITH SENSEI THE BEST!
I HOPE HE FEELS THE SAME WAY...

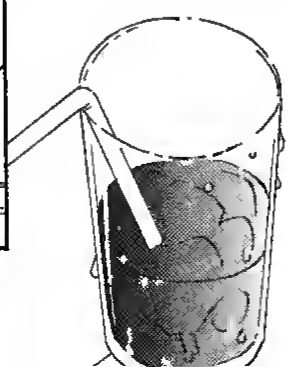
HM. I WONDER IF TOMO-KUN'S HERE...

Coffee

THERE YOU ARE!!

AND I WAS JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE!
WHAT TIMING.


I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WERE HERE, SO I DECIDED TO TAKE A PEEK INSIDE!



OH, YES.
IT ACTUALLY WENT ON SALE YESTERDAY, BUT I DECIDED TO HOLD ON TO A COPY FOR THE NEXT TIME I SAW YOU.
CAN I OPEN IT?
HERE YOU GO.
IT'S FINISHED ALREADY?!
REMEMBER HOW I PROMISED TO TELL YOU WHEN MY BOOK CAME OUT?
HEY!!
SUKI
words and pictures by Tomo

I JUST BOUGHT "SUKI" YESTER-DAY!
I HAVE ALL OF TOMO-SAN'S BOOKS!
WHAT?
I HAVE THIS BOOK!
SEE?!
SUKI
SUKI
SO, TOMO-KUN... YOU'RE TOMO-SAN!
WOW! WOWWW!
I SEE...
WELL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOUR FIRST BOOK... AND FROM THEN ON, I'VE LOVED AND READ THEM ALL!
WELL, I CERTAINLY NEVER THOUGHT I'D MEET ONE OF MY READERS LIKE THIS.
I'M SO GLAD I GOT TO MEET YOU!

HAVE YOU ALWAYS LIKED PICTURE BOOKS?
NO! THANK *YOU* FOR CREATING SUCH WONDERFUL BOOKS FOR ME TO READ!
SUKI
SUKI
NOT ONLY THAT... I LOVE ALL YOUR BOOKS... BUT I LOVE "SUKI" THE *BEST!*
...I FOUND TOMO-SAN'S BOOKS THE FIRST DAY I WENT TO THE BOOKSTORE. THEY'VE BEEN MY FAVORITES EVER SINCE!
YUP! MY MOTHER LOVED THEM, SO I GOT TO READ A LOT OF BOOKS WHEN I WAS LITTLE! AND TWO YEARS AGO, WHEN I STARTED LIVING ON MY OWN...
THE STORY'S NOT DONE YET, Y'KNOW.
I KNOW! I CAN'T WAIT TO READ THE NEXT ONE!
WELL, I'D BETTER DO A GOOD JOB THEN, HADN'T I?

SUKI
rds and pictures by Towo
OOOOH! I CAN'T WAIT FOR NEXT MONTH!
NEXT MONTH.
WHEN IS THE NEXT ONE COMING OUT?!
DON'T YOU THINK THE BEAR WITH THE GLASSES LOOKS LIKE ASOU-SENSEI?!
AND... BY THE WAY...!
HUH?
...YOU FIGURED IT OUT ALREADY?
#!!

WOW!
YEP.
WAIT...ARE YOU SAYING THE BEAR WITH THE GLASSES IS SENSEI?
HEY... DON'T TELL SHIRO, OKAY?
AND THIS LITTLE BEAR...IS HINA-CHAN.
I SHOULD TREAT YOU TO SOMETHING, SINCE YOU DIDN'T CHARGE A MODELING FEE.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
ARE YOU SURE...? UH...THEN... HOW ABOUT A PUDDING PARFAIT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
ME?!

SIR?
YES, I'D LIKE TO ORDER, PLEASE.
I WONDER IF THE LITTLE BEAR WILL EVER BECOME FRIENDS WITH THE BEAR WITH GLASSES?
...YES.
WELL... THAT ALL DEPENDS ON THE LITTLE BEAR, DOESN'T IT?
To Next

9
SUKI
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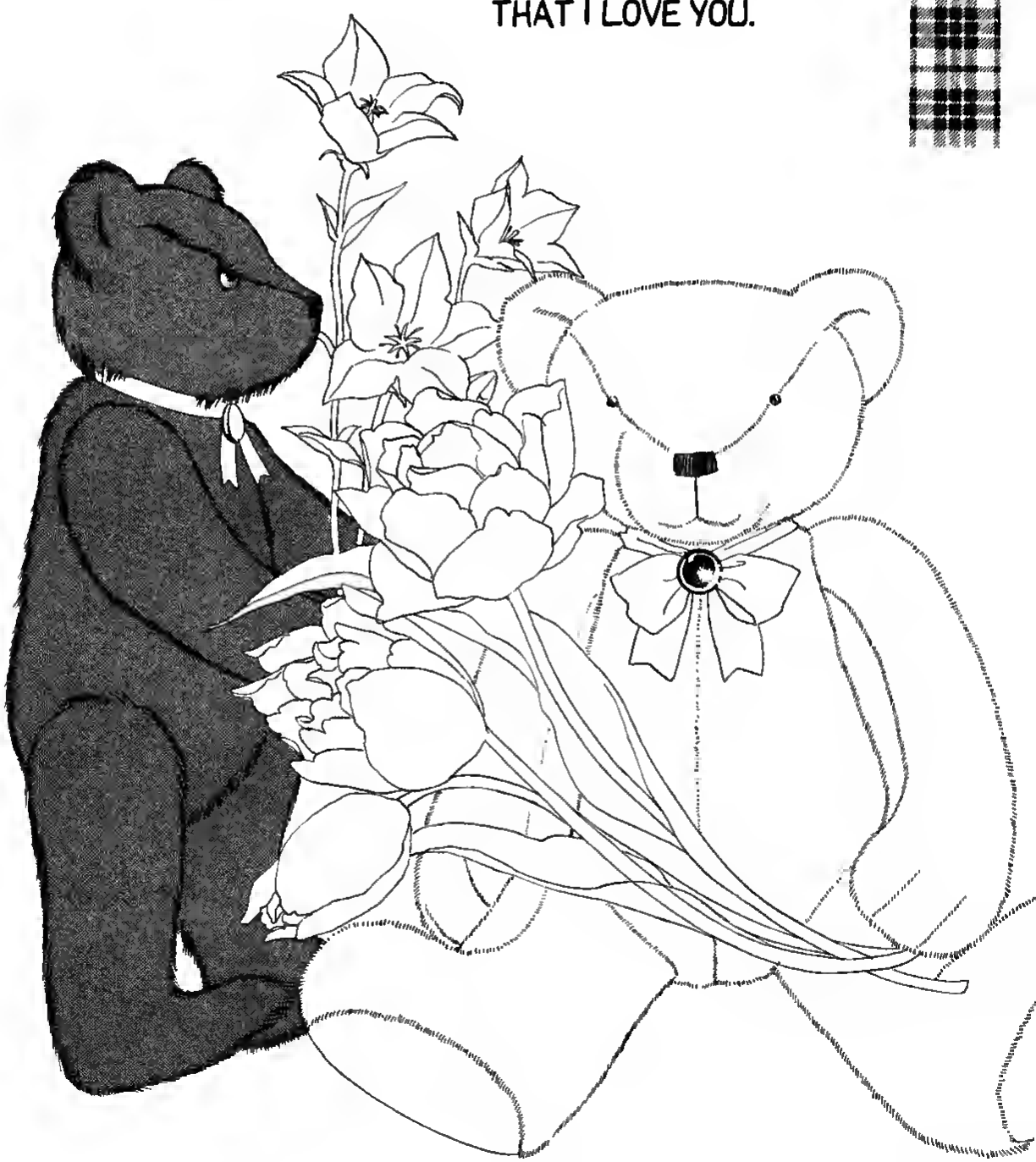
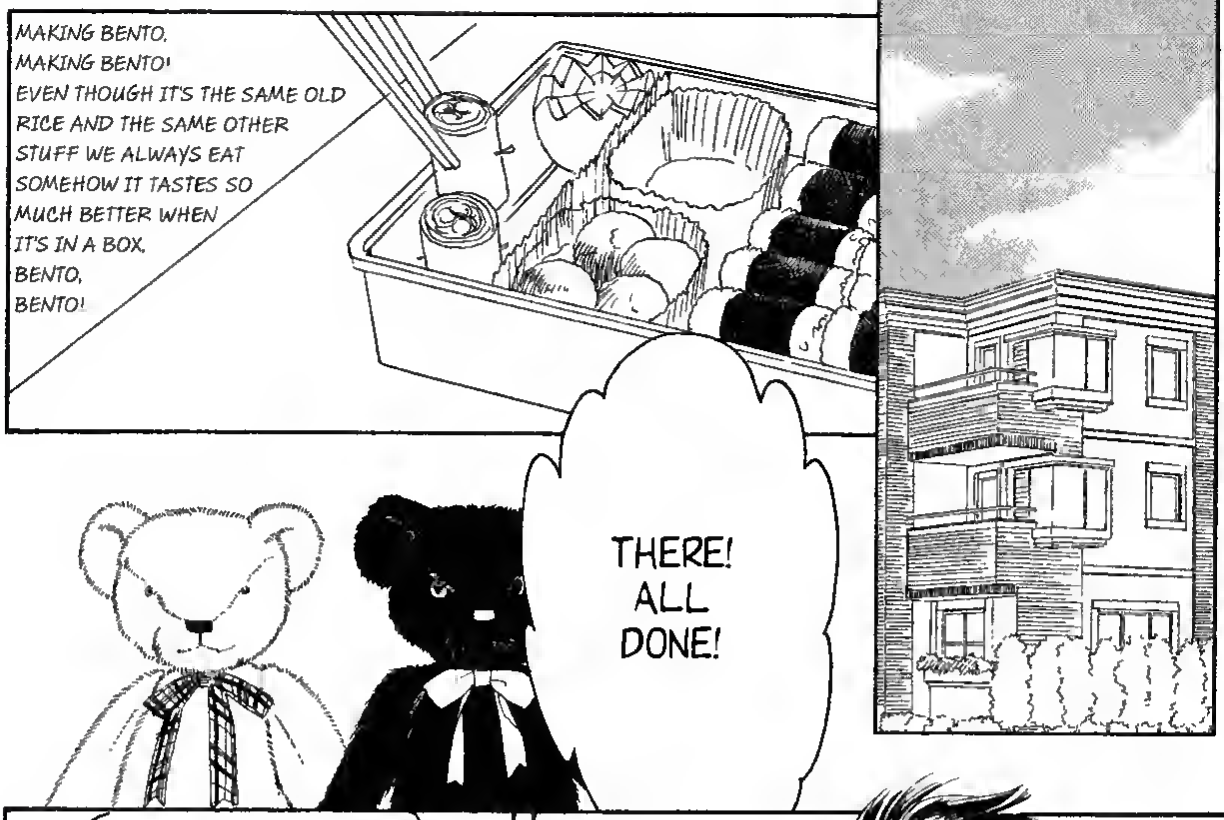
I LOVE IT WHEN YOU'RE KIND TO ME.

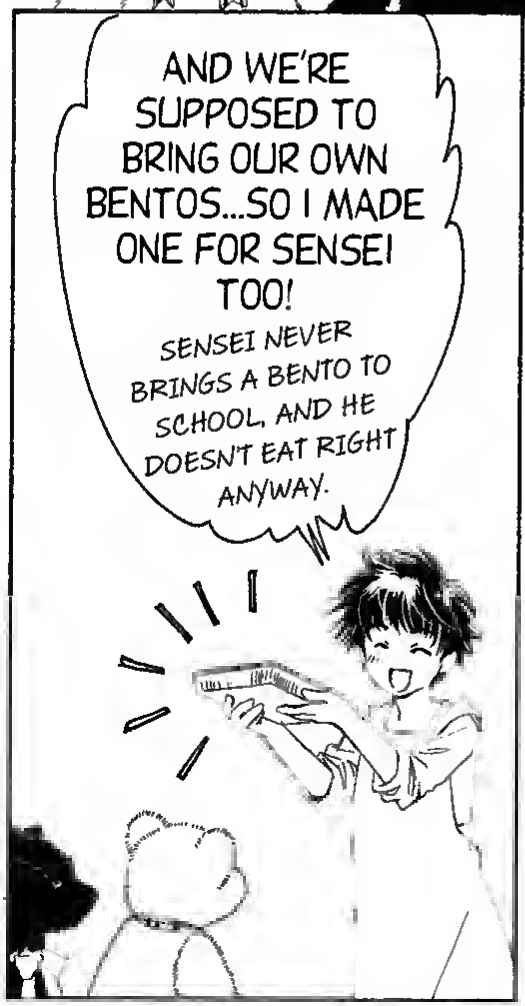
I EVEN LOVE IT WHEN YOU'RE BRUSQUE.

THAT'S WHY I WANT
SO MUCH TO SAY...

THAT I LOVE YOU.

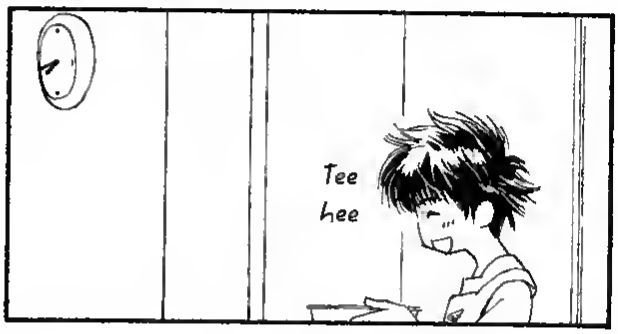


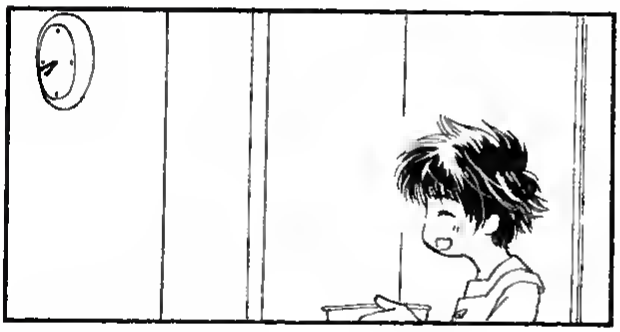

MAKING BENTO,
MAKING BENTO!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S THE SAME OLD RICE AND THE SAME OTHER STUFF WE ALWAYS EAT SOMEHOW IT TASTES SO MUCH BETTER WHEN IT'S IN A BOX.
BENTO,
BENTO!
THERE! ALL DONE!

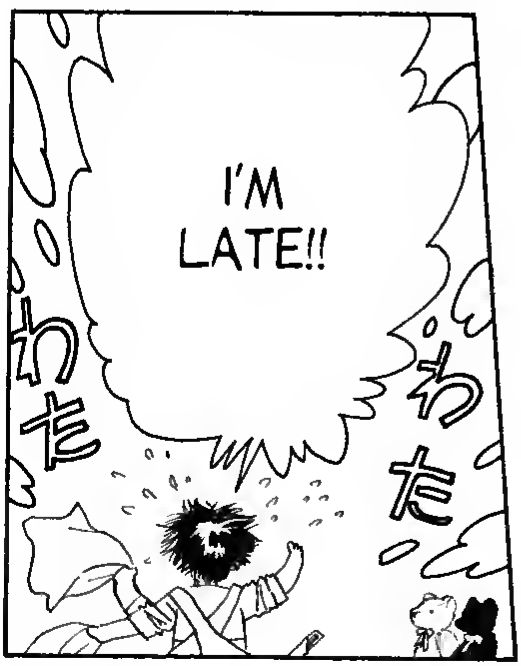

AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BRING OUR OWN BENTOS...SO I MADE ONE FOR SENSEI TOO!
SENSEI NEVER BRINGS A BENTO TO SCHOOL, AND HE DOESN'T EAT RIGHT ANYWAY.

TODAY OUR CLASS IS TAKING A FIELD TRIP TO THE MUSEUM!
WE'RE MEETING THERE DIRECTLY.

I HOPE SENSEI WILL EAT THIS FOR ME!


Tee hee

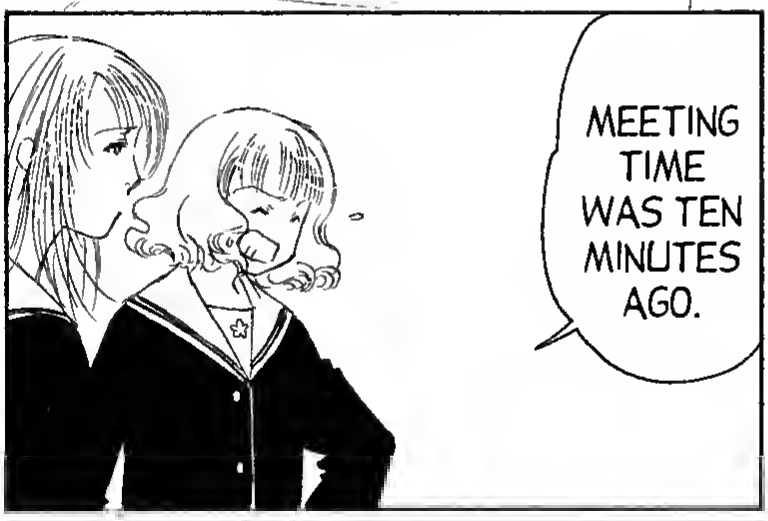


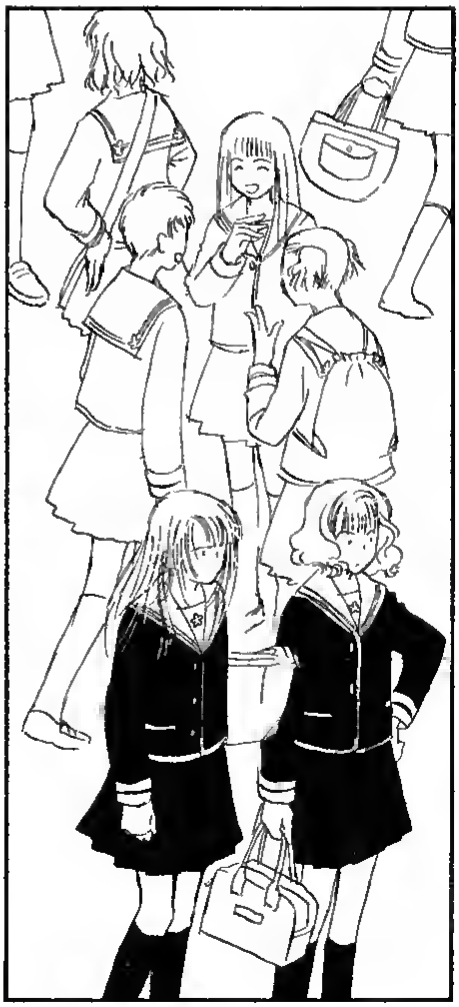

I'M LATE!!
わたわた

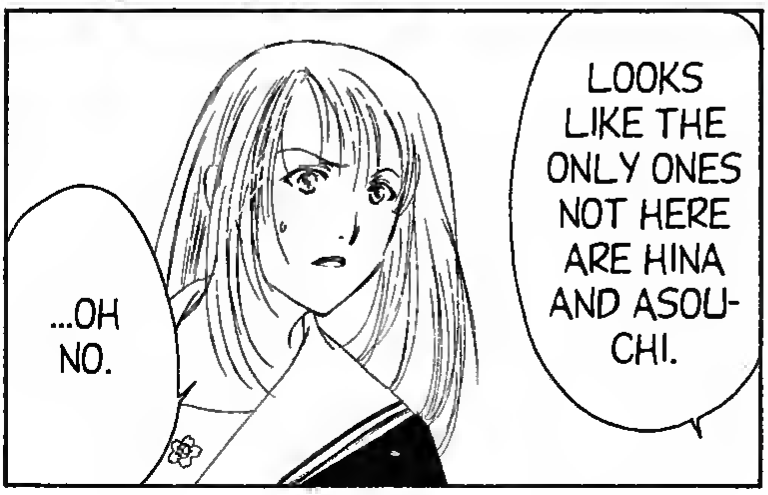
UH-OH!!

AND, I'M OFF!
I'M LATE!
OH NO! OH NO!
ASOU-SENSEI!

YOU'RE LATE.
I KNOW. I WAS MAKING BENTO, AND IT TOOK ME LONGER THAN EXPECTED.
BUT *YOU'RE* LATE TOO, SENSE!!
Er...
LET'S GO.
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE *YOU...!*
BECAUSE *I...?*
OKAAAAY!


MEETING TIME WAS TEN MINUTES AGO.



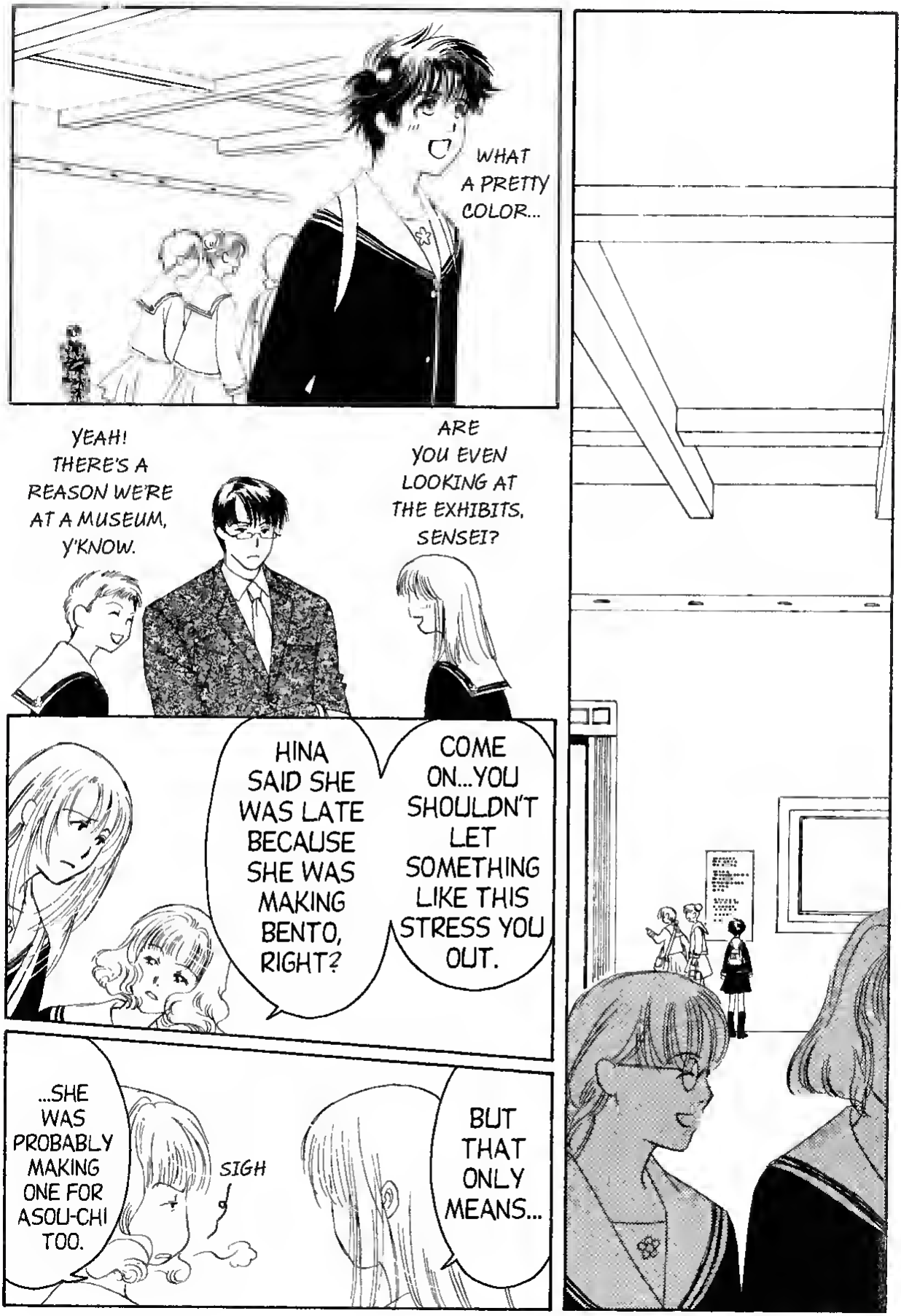

LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY ONES NOT HERE ARE HINA AND ASOU-CHI.
...OH NO.

HEY, DON'T WORRY. THERE'S NO *WAY* THEY COULD SHOW UP TOGETHER. NO MATTER HOW AIR-HEADED HINA CAN BE, *ASOU-CHI* WOULD AT LEAST BE CAREFUL ABOUT APPEARANCES.
ザワ
OKAY... SO THEY *DID* SHOW UP TOGETHER. *RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN, TOO.*
AHHH! EVERYONE'S ALREADY HERE!
...AND THE *TEACHER'S* LATE.
ザワ
EW-- WHY?
REALLY? IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED?
WHY DID HINA AND SENSEI SHOW UP TOGETHER?

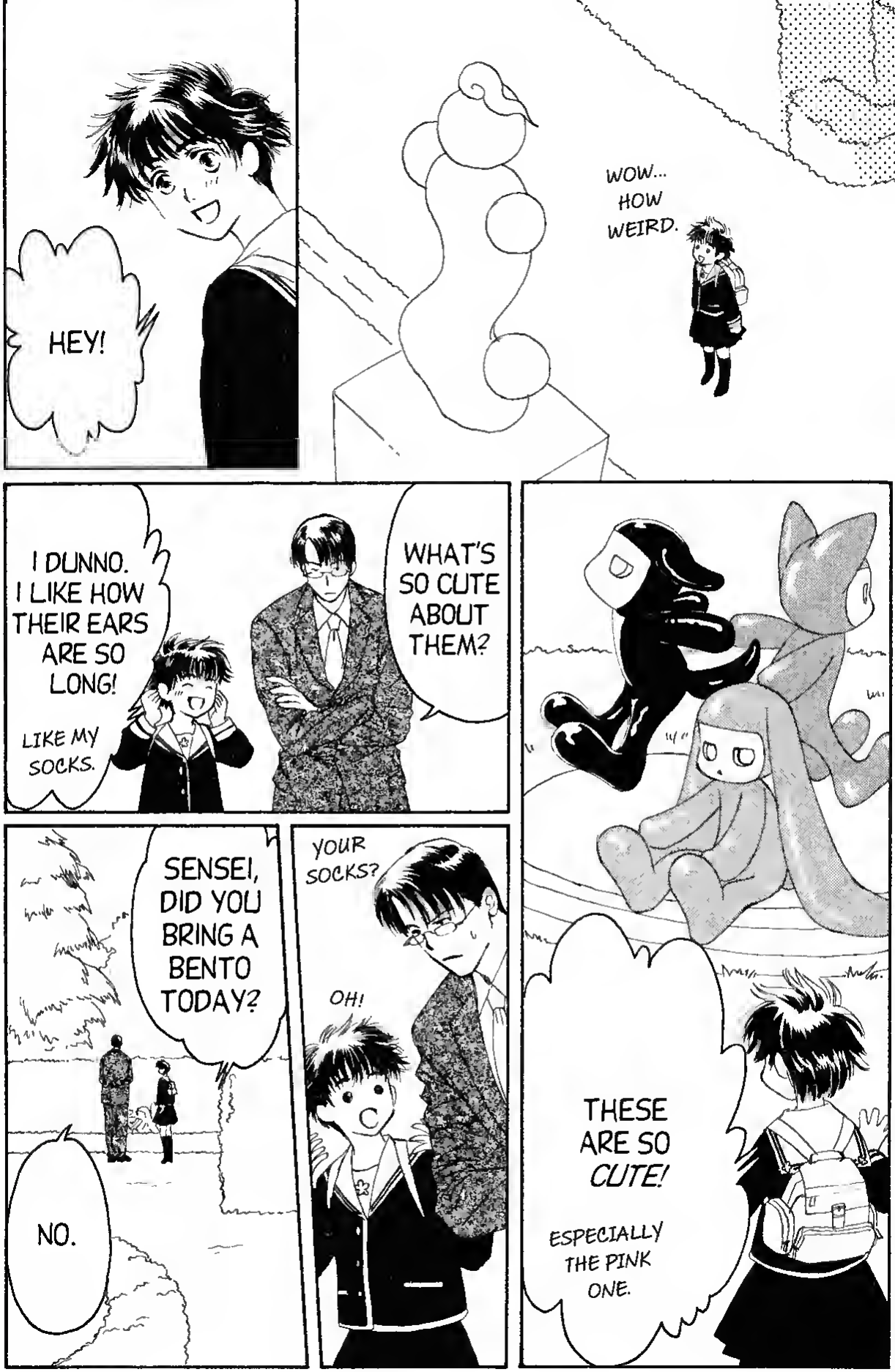
COME ON NOW, HINA... APOLOGIZE TO EVERYONE!
EVERY-ONE WAS WAITING FOR YOU!
YOU'RE LATE!
I'M SORRY I WAS LATE!
LITTLE KIDS SHOULDN'T STAY UP LATE, Y'KNOW.
DID YOU OVER-SLEEP, ASAHI?
HA HA HA!
NO... I ACTUALLY WENT TO BED EARLIER THAN USUAL! I WAS JUST LATE THIS TIME BE-CAUSE I WAS MAKING BENTO.
THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, HINA!
HA HA HA!
ANYWAY, OUR TARDINESS AWARD FOR THE DAY GOES TO SENSEI! SO LET'S LEAVE THIS POOR GIRL ALONE AND CHECK OUT SOME ART!

DID YOU OVER-SLEEP, TOO?
YEAH! THAT MEANS YOU HAVE TO TREAT US TO SOME THING
YOU WERE TARDY TODAY, SENSEI!
ガラガラ
MOVE ALONG, MOVE ALONG
ガヤガヤ
ARE YOU TIRED?
WHAT'S WRONG, TOUKO-CHAN?
DID YOU GET WORRIED WHEN I DIDN'T SHOW UP?
IT CAUSED A BIG SCENE.
I'M *WORRIED* BECAUSE YOU SHOWED UP WITH *ASOU-SENSEI*.
WHY?
?

I JUST LIKE BEING WITH ASOU-SENSEI!
EH. NO USE TRYING TO TALK SENSE INTO AN INNOCENT!
PHEW
HEE HEE!
NOW HURRY UP, OR WE'RE GONNA MAKE EVERYONE WAIT AGAIN!
OKAAAY!


WHAT A PRETTY COLOR...
YEAH! THERE'S A REASON WE'RE AT A MUSEUM, Y'KNOW.
ARE YOU EVEN LOOKING AT THE EXHIBITS, SENSEI?
HINA SAID SHE WAS LATE BECAUSE SHE WAS MAKING BENTO, RIGHT?
COME ON...YOU SHOULDN'T LET SOMETHING LIKE THIS STRESS YOU OUT.
...SHE WAS PROBABLY MAKING ONE FOR ASOU-CHI TOO.
SIGH
BUT THAT ONLY MEANS...

BUT THEY DON'T LIVE NEXT DOOR TO HIM...
SIGH
YEAH. THAT DOESN'T LOOK TOO GOOD, DOES IT?
I MEAN, EVEN IF PEOPLE DO FIND OUT THAT HINA LIKES SENSEI, IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO BIG OF A DEAL.
PLENTY OF GIRLS IN OUR CLASS HAVE CRUSHES ON HIM.
WELL, THAT DOESN'T MATTER. WE JUST HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE OUT.
...YEAH.
BUT IT'S SOME COINCIDENCE, Y'KNOW?
THAT HOUSE WAS EMPTY FOR SO LONG... AND WHEN SOMEONE FINALLY MOVES IN, IT'S HER HOMEROOM TEACHER!
IT'S ALMOST LIKE IN A TV SHOW... EXCEPT EVEN TV SHOWS DON'T DO STUFF LIKE THAT!
THAT'S RIGHT.
HER NEW, HANDSOME TEACHER MOVES IN RIGHT NEXT DOOR... IT'S *TOO* CONVENIENT.


HEY!
WOW... HOW WEIRD.
I DUNNO. I LIKE HOW THEIR EARS ARE SO LONG!
LIKE MY SOCKS.
WHAT'S SO CUTE ABOUT THEM?
THESE ARE SO CUTE!
ESPECIALLY THE PINK ONE.
SENSEI, DID YOU BRING A BENTO TODAY?
NO.
YOUR SOCKS?
OH!

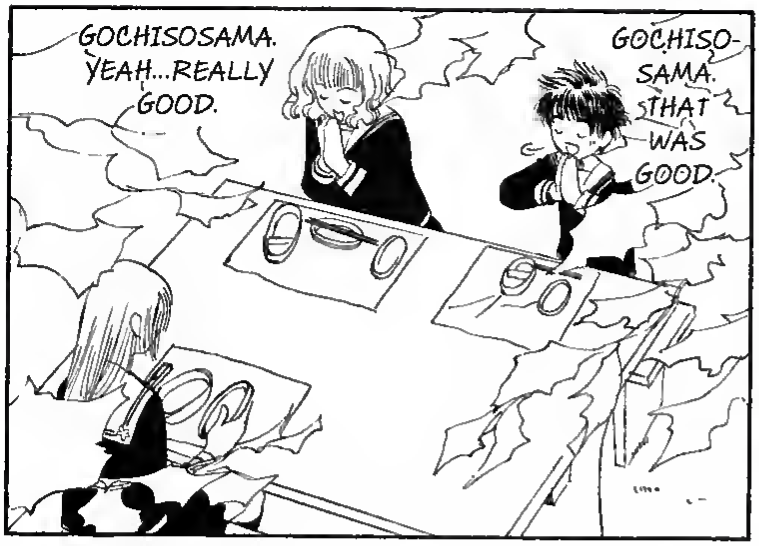
I PUT IN YOUR FAVORITE... BURDOCK ROOT! AND I MADE THE EGGS WITHOUT SUGAR THIS TIME!
YOU SAID IN HOMEROOM YOU WERE GOING TO BRING A BENTO...
YEAH, WELL, I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE IT.
THAT'S WHY I MADE YOU ONE!
UH... THAT'S NOT SO GOOD.
WHADDAYA SAY? LET'S EAT TOGETHER!
I DON'T GET IT. WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
EATING TOGETHER AT HOME IS ONE THING, BUT WHAT WOULD EVERYONE THINK IF I WAS WITH YOU, EATING A BENTO YOU MADE FOR ME, RIGHT OUT IN PUBLIC, DURING SCHOOL HOURS?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
NOT GOOD? YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TRIED MY BENTO.
I TASTED IT MYSELF.

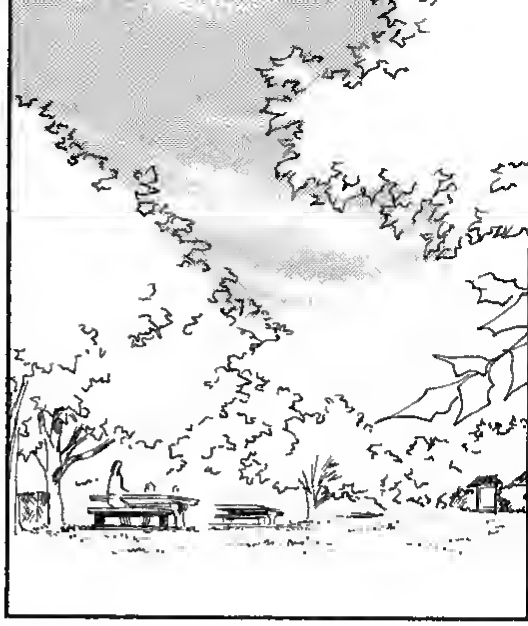
LOOK.
THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU...THEY'RE NOT ALL GOOD.
IF YOU KEEP LIVING IN THAT DREAM WORLD OF YOURS, YOU'RE GOING TO BE SORRY.

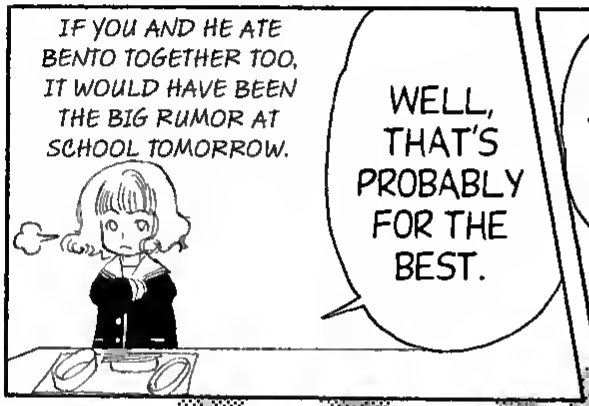
THE PEOPLE AROUND ME ARE ALL PEOPLE I LOVE.
NO, I WON'T.
NONE OF THEM ARE BAD PEOPLE.
NOT NOW, NOT EVER.

SENSEI! ASOU-SENSEI!
I MADE LOTS OF IT. JUST FOR YOU!
HOW ABOUT SOME FRIED CHICKEN?
HEY SENSEI, YOU LIKE HAMBURGER RIGHT?
ゲイ ゲイ ゲイ
HUH HUH?
パタパタ
I MADE A BENTO FOR YOU.
ME TOO!
HEY, SENSEI-- IT'S LUNCH TIME!
HUH?
COME ON, SENSEI-- LET'S GO!
ゲイゲイ

GUESS I'LL JUST SAVE THIS FOR DINNER.
LOOKS LIKE SENSEI WILL HAVE PLENTY TO EAT AFTER ALL.
HE'S GETTING LOTS OF BENTOS.
YO, HINATA-- YOU GONNA EAT LUNCH OR WHAT?!
OKAYYY!!


GOCHISOSAMA. YEAH...REALLY GOOD.
GOCHISO-SAMA. THAT WAS GOOD.




IF YOU AND HE ATE BENTO TOGETHER TOO, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE BIG RUMOR AT SCHOOL TOMORROW.
WELL, THAT'S PROBABLY FOR THE BEST.

YUP.
SO, ASOU-CHI ENDED UP EATING BENTO WITH THE OTHER GIRLS, EH?

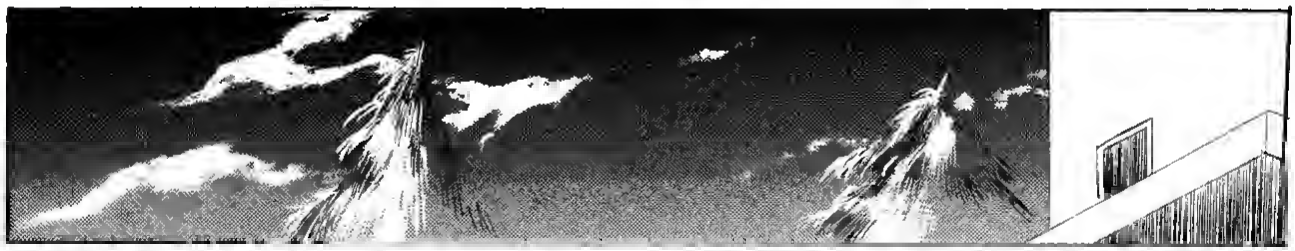
C'MON... C'MON....
HA HA HA HA HA... THAT TICKLES!
こしょ
こしょ
こしょ
WHAT ARE YOU TRYIN' TO SAY?! YOU DON'T LIKE EATING LUNCH WITH EMI-CHAN ANYMORE?!
OF COURSE NOT!!
I LOVE EATING LUNCH WITH YOU, EMI-CHAN!
BUT...
I STILL WISH I COULD HAVE EATEN BENTO WITH ASOU-SENSEI.
キュピーン

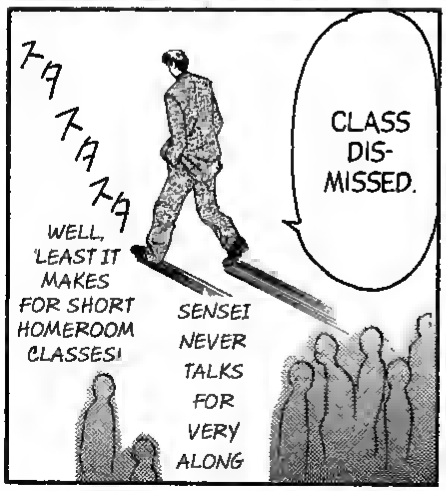
DON'T WORRY, I'LL GET SOME FOR YOU GUYS.
I'M GOING TO GO BUY SOME JUICE.
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY THAT EASILY!
OH-- I'LL COME, TOO!
ORANGE JUICE FOR ME!
I'LL TAKE A LEMONADE.
HA HA HA HA! C'MON!
HA HA-- I'VE GOT YOU NOW!
SO THIS IS YOUR TICKLISH SPOT!
THAT TICKLES!
HA HA HA HA HA!
OH, HINA...

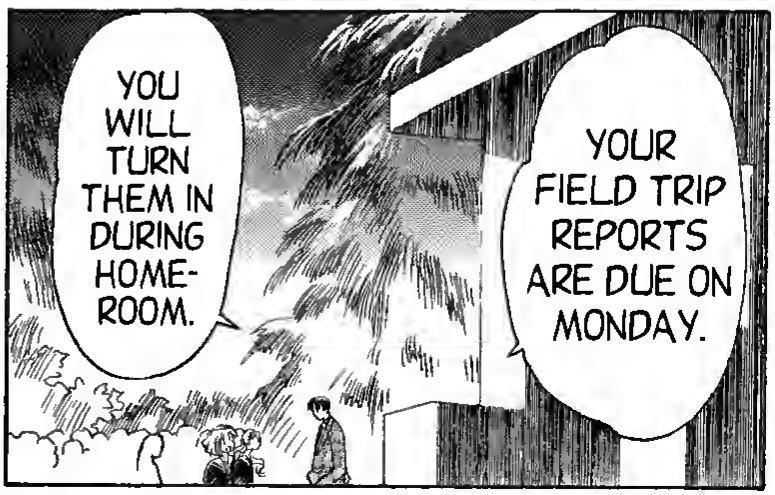
I GUESS I WAS THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE...
ボソ
ボソボソ
NO.
THAT'S WEIRD. I THOUGHT THE JUICE STANDS WERE OVER HERE... DID I GET LOST?
HM?
ASOU-SENSEI...
LOOK, I ACCEPTED THIS JOB, AND I'M GOING TO FINISH IT.

WHO IS HE TALKING TO? SENSEI'S BLOCKING MY VIEW...
I WOULDN'T WORRY.
WHAT?!
HINATA ASAHI DOESN'T KNOW *HOW* TO BE SUSPICIOUS.
BESIDES...

...I THINK SOMEONE MAY HAVE HEARD US.
WHAT IS IT?




CLASS DIS-MISSED.
スタスタスタ
WELL, 'LEAST IT MAKES FOR SHORT HOMEROOM CLASSES!
SENSEI NEVER TALKS FOR VERY ALONG


YOU WILL TURN THEM IN DURING HOME-ROOM.
YOUR FIELD TRIP REPORTS ARE DUE ON MONDAY.

WELL, I GUESS THERE'S NO USE TRYING TO TALK SENSE INTO YOU.
NOPE!
BUT AT *LEAST* KEEP YOUR DISTANCE UNTIL YOU GET NEAR YOUR HOUSE!
HURRY ON HOME, KIDS.
WANNA STOP SOMEWHERE FOR TEA?
GOING HOME ALREADY, SENSEI?
WITH ASOU-CHI, I PRESUME.
I'M GOING HOME, TOO!
HINA!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
OKAY... SEE YA!
JUST-- TRUST ME!
WHY?
WHAT?

...BE CAREFUL.
OKAY!
I PROMISE TO LOOK BOTH WAYS AND EVERYTHING!
...I'M GOING TO TRY AND GET MORE INFORMATION ON SENSEI TOO.
WHAT'S WRONG NOW? YOU LOOK SO SERIOUS.
SENSEI CAME HERE TO MEET WITH SOMEONE.
AT THE MUSEUM?
...AND HE WAS TALKING TO HIM ABOUT HINA.

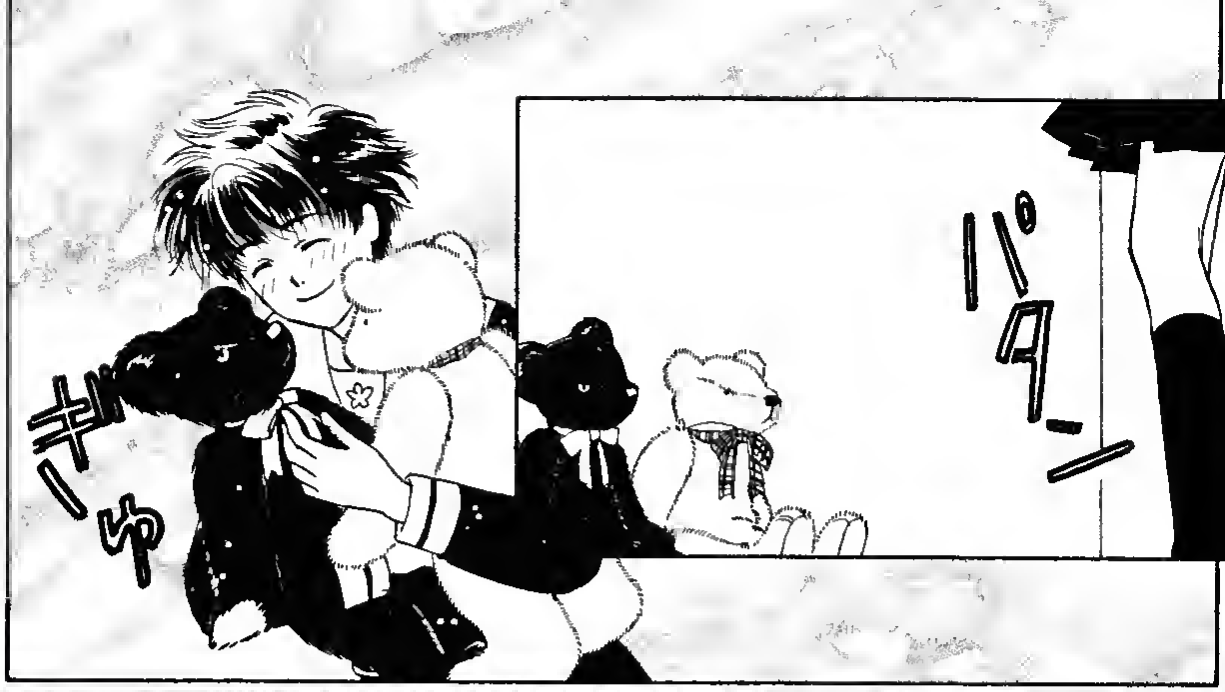
WALKING HOME, WALKING HOME, WALKING HOME SO HAPPILY!
SEE YOU TOMORROW, SENSEI!
HERE... I'LL TAKE IT.
WHAT?
THE BENTO.

IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO WASTE IT.
YOU'RE GOING TO EAT IT?!
...THANKS.
HERE YOU GO!

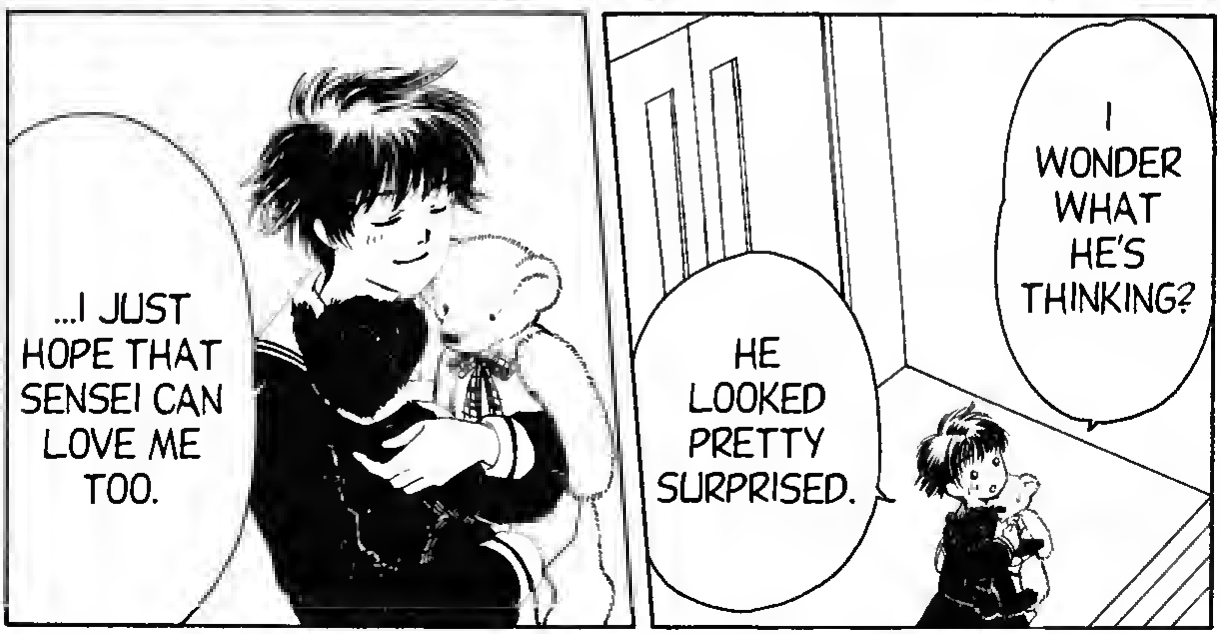
SENSEI!!

I...
I LOVE YOU, SENSEI.

I THINK YOU'RE THE ONE I LOVE THE MOST.
NO...I DON'T THINK.
I *KNOW* IT!
ANY-WAY... JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT!
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!!



I TOLD SENSEI THAT I LOVE HIM!


...I JUST HOPE THAT SENSEI CAN LOVE ME TOO.
HE LOOKED PRETTY SURPRISED.
I WONDER WHAT HE'S THINKING?

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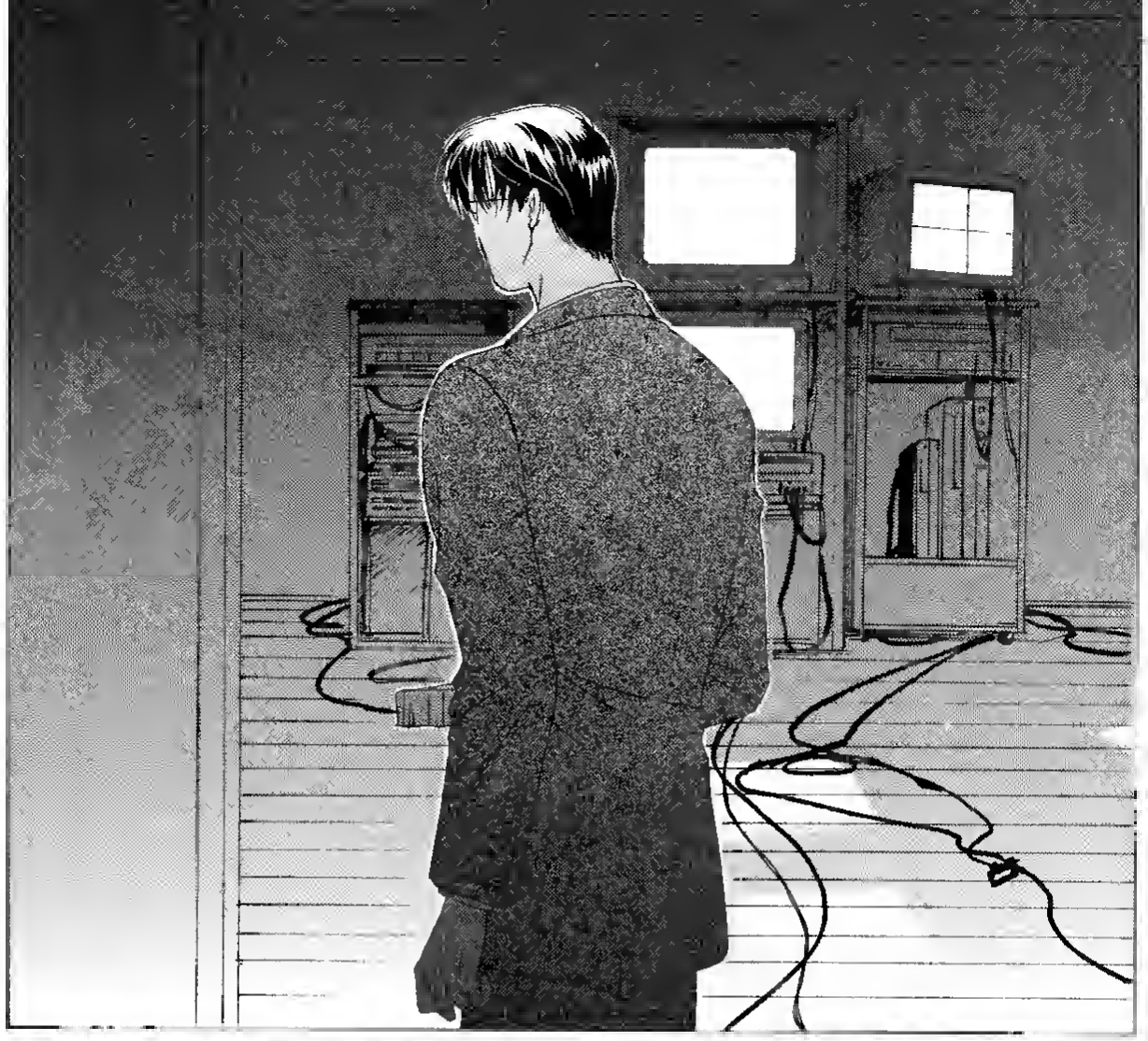
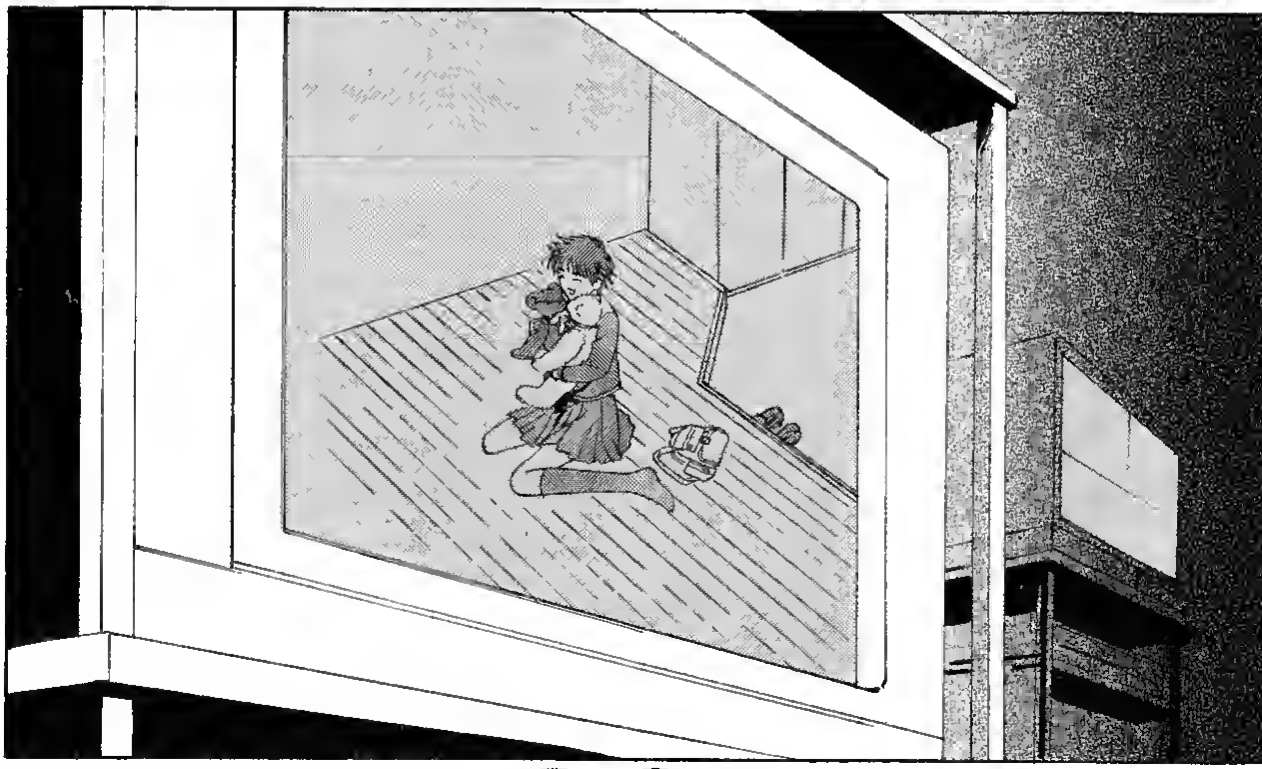




To Next

# Suki™

10

I LOVE YOU.

I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE.

DO YOU LOVE ME TOO?

AND SO THE LITTLE BEAR VISITED THE HOUSE OF THE BEAR WITH GLASSES EVERY DAY.

EACH TIME, SHE WOULD KNOCK ON HIS DOOR AND TRY TO TALK TO HIM.

BUT THE BEAR WITH GLASSES WOULD NOT OPEN HIS DOOR.

EVERYONE TOLD THE LITTLE BEAR,
"YOU SEE? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE."

"HE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK TO ANYONE."
"HE IS A BAD BEAR."



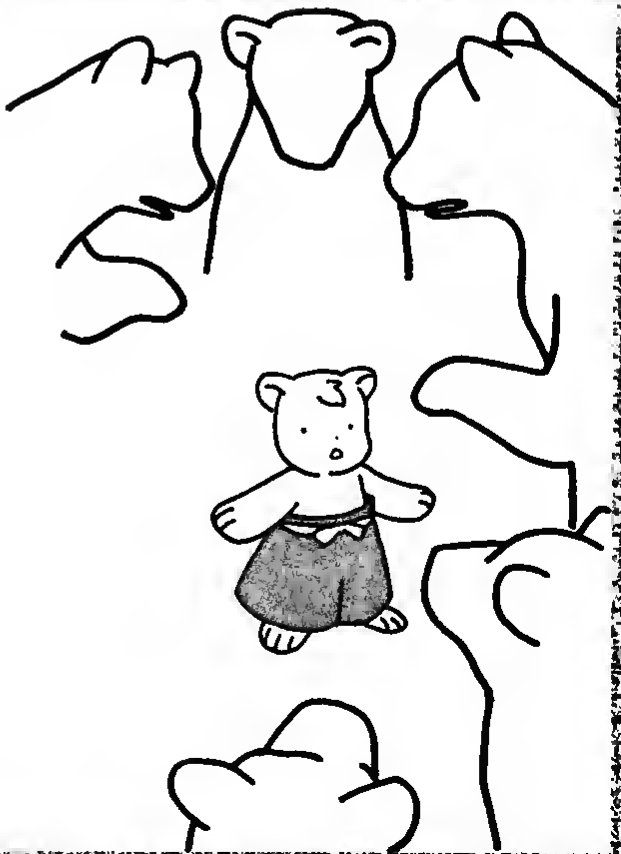
BUT THE LITTLE BEAR SHOOK HER HEAD. SHE REFUSED TO BELIEVE THAT.

"THAT'S NOT TRUE," SHE SAID. "HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING BAD TO ME."

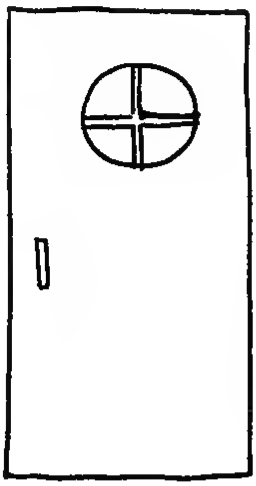
"BUT HE WILL DO SOMETHING BAD TO YOU," THEY INSISTED.
"HE'S ALWAYS ALONE. THAT MEANS HE'S A BAD BEAR. AND BAD BEARS DO BAD THINGS. THEY ALWAYS DO."

"WE HEARD HE DID SOMETHING BAD IN THE LAST TOWN HE LIVED IN," THEY ADDED.

"ONCE SOMEONE DOES A BAD THING, THEY'RE GOING TO DO IT AGAIN. THEY ALWAYS DO."

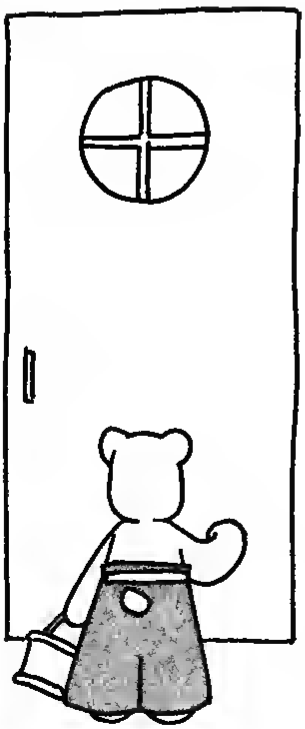


"THAT'S NOT TRUE," THE LITTLE BEAR SAID.
"KUMA-SAN HAS SUCH NICE, KIND EYES.
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD BE A BAD BEAR."



SO THE LITTLE BEAR IGNORED EVERYONE'S WARNINGS
AND VISITED KUMA-SAN'S HOUSE EACH DAY.





THEN, ONE MORNING...

...THE LITTLE BEAR VISITED KUMA-SAN'S HOUSE ONCE MORE. BUT THIS TIME, SHE HELD A BASKET IN HER HANDS.

"GOOD MORNING!" SHE CALLED OUT.

THERE WAS NO ANSWER.
THE LITTLE BEAR KNOCKED AGAIN.

"GOOD MORNING, KUMA-SAN. ARE YOU HOME?" SHE ASKED.

THE LITTLE BEAR LISTENED CAREFULLY,
BUT NO ONE SEEMED TO BE INSIDE.

So the little bear tried peeking into the house through the window. But the bear with glasses wasn't in his usual chair. And he wasn't in the backyard, either, where he usually chopped his wood.

"Maybe he went out," thought the little bear.
So she decided to draw a message in the dirt with a nearby stick.

"I'm going into the West Woods to pick berries," she wrote. "I'll pick lots of berries and bring you some too. Please wait for me."

And with that, the little bear set off for the West Woods, hoping to give Kuma-san a gift of berries to eat.

The West Woods were dark, even during the day. Even the adult bears avoided going there.

But the little bear wanted to give Kuma-san a gift of berries, so she went deeper and deeper into the trees.

THE LITTLE BEAR WALKED AND WALKED UNTIL SHE ARRIVED AT A TREE WITH BIG, DELICIOUS BERRIES.

"I'LL PICK FROM THIS TREE," SAID THE LITTLE BEAR.

THE LITTLE BEAR REACHED WAY UP HIGH AND DID HER BEST TO PICK THE BERRIES.

SHE THOUGHT TO HERSELF, "I HOPE KUMA-SAN LIKES MOUNTAIN BERRIES. I HOPE HE'LL BE HAPPY WHEN HE SEES THEM."





SUDDENLY, THE LITTLE BEAR HEARD LOUD FLAPPING FROM ABOVE.
"I WONDER WHAT THAT IS?" SHE THOUGHT.

SHE LOOKED UP AND SAW SEVERAL LARGE BLACK CROWS SITTING AT THE TOP OF THE TREE.

SHE HAD NEVER SEEN SUCH LARGE CROWS...
AND THEY STARED BACK DOWN AT HER JUST AS HARD.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE LITTLE BEAR HAD SEEN CROWS LIKE THAT. SO SHE DECIDED TO INTRODUCE HERSELF.

"H-HELLO." SHE BOWED HER HEAD. BUT THE CROWS SAID NOTHING... ONLY STARED.

THE LITTLE BEAR THOUGHT, "I WONDER IF CROWS SAY HELLO DIFFERENTLY THAN BEARS DO?"

THEN WITHOUT WARNING, ALL OF THE CROWS DIVED DOWN FROM THE TREE... STRAIGHT FOR THE LITTLE BEAR.

"W-WHAT'S GOING ON?!" THE LITTLE BEAR GASPED.





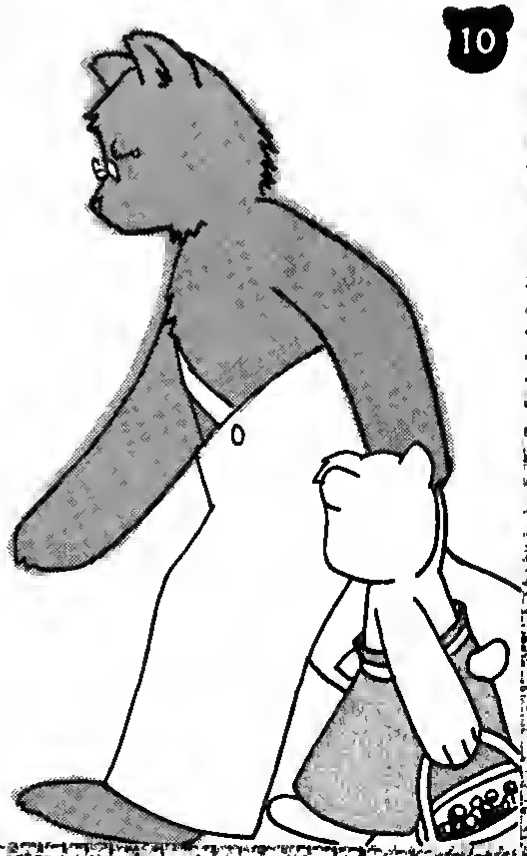
THE LITTLE BEAR FROZE WHERE SHE STOOD, NOT UNDERSTANDING WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

"MOVE, YOU FOOL!" SOMEONE BEHIND HER YELLED. SHE FELT HER PAW BEING YANKED BACK. SURPRISED, THE LITTLE BEAR LOOKED BACK TO SEE THE BEAR WITH GLASSES. "KUMA-SAN?" SHE SAID.

THE LITTLE BEAR DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY KUMA-SAN WAS THERE. SHE WAS ABOUT TO ASK HIM, BUT HE BEGAN TO SPEAK HIMSELF.

"WELL, DON'T STAND THERE! DO YOU WANT TO BE EATEN BY CROWS?!"
AND AS HE SAID IT, KUMA-SAN GRABBED THE LITTLE BEAR'S PAW AND BEGAN TO RUN.

THE LITTLE BEAR DIDN'T UNDERSTAND, BUT LED BY KUMA-SAN, SHE TOO RAN AS FAST AS SHE COULD.



SOMEHOW THEY MANAGED TO GET
OUT OF THE WOODS.
WHEN THEY FINALLY LOOKED BACK,
THE CROWS WERE NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.

KUMA-SAN SIGHED, THEN SAID TO THE
LITTLE BEAR:

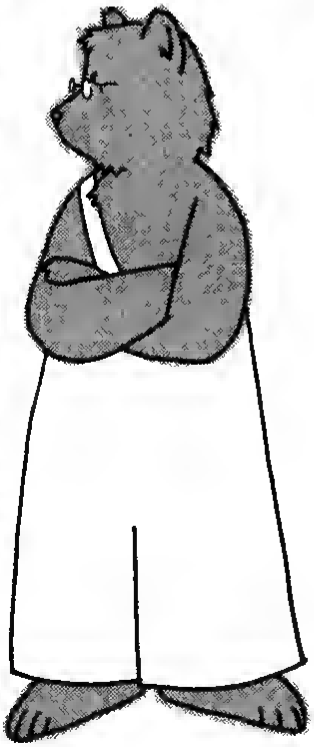
"THERE ARE MANY CROWS LIVING IN
THE WEST WOODS. IF THEY CATCH A
CUB LIKE YOU WALKING THERE ALONE,
THEY'LL EAT YOU FOR DINNER."

KUMA-SAN WAS VERY ANGRY,
IT SEEMED.
THE LITTLE BEAR WAS VERY SORRY,
AND SHE APOLOGIZED.

"I'M SORRY. BUT, KUMA-SAN...
WHY DID YOU COME INTO THE
WEST WOODS?"







KUMA-SAN SAID NOTHING.

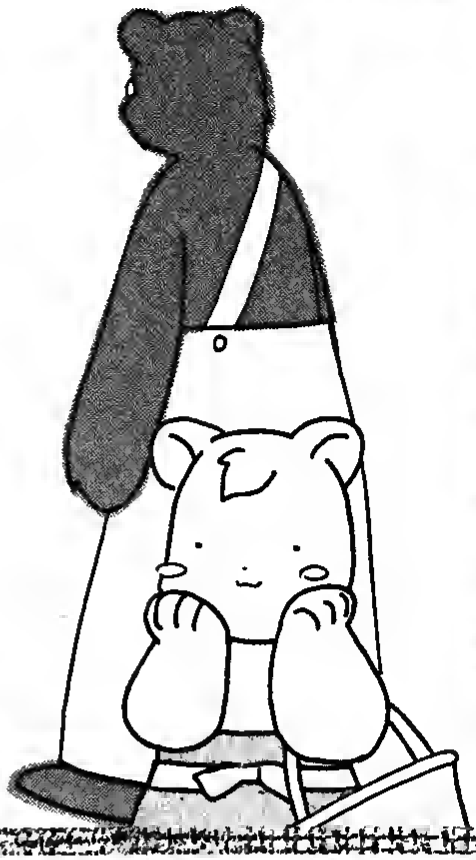
THE LITTLE BEAR THOUGHT FOR A
MOMENT, THEN HAPPILY SAID, "DID
YOU COME WHEN YOU SAW THE
NOTE I LEFT AT YOUR HOUSE?"

"...WE'RE GOING HOME," WAS THE
ONLY REPLY SHE GOT.

BUT AS KUMA-SAN STOMPED DOWN
TOWARD THE TOWN, THE LITTLE
BEAR FELT VERY HAPPY.

FOR ALTHOUGH HE WOULD SPEAK
NOTHING OF IT, THE LITTLE BEAR KNEW
THAT KUMA-SAN HAD COME TO RESCUE HER.

AND WITH THAT THOUGHT,
SHE KNEW SHE HAD BEEN RIGHT.
"HE ISN'T A BAD BEAR LIKE EVERYBODY
SAID. HE IS A VERY KIND BEAR."







SO THE LITTLE BEAR WAS VERY HAPPY INDEED.

BUT EVEN AS SHE THOUGHT ALL THIS,
SHE KNEW SHE WOULD BE EVEN HAPPIER
IF KUMA-SAN WOULD EAT THE PLENTIFUL
BERRIES SHE HAD PICKED THAT DAY.

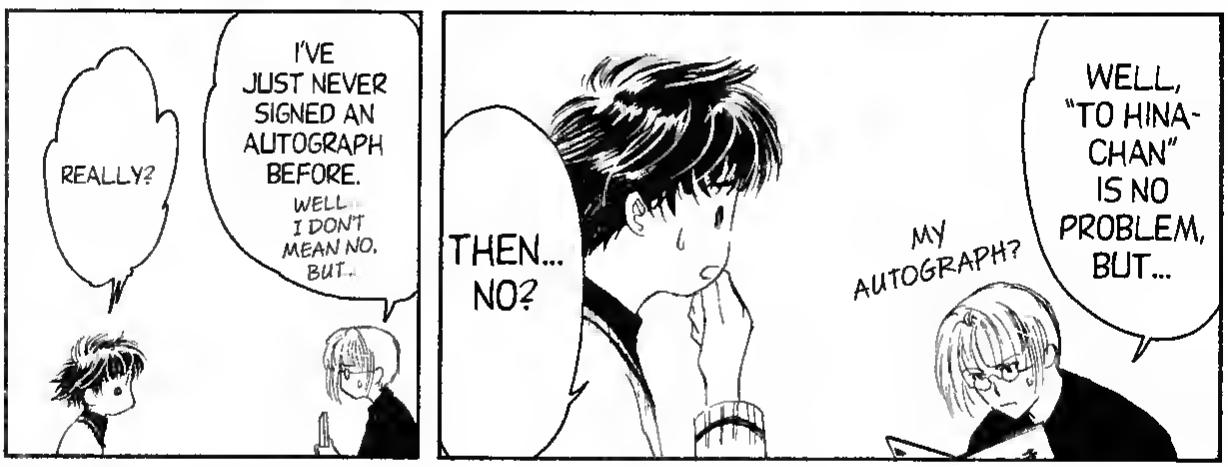
TO BE CONTINUED

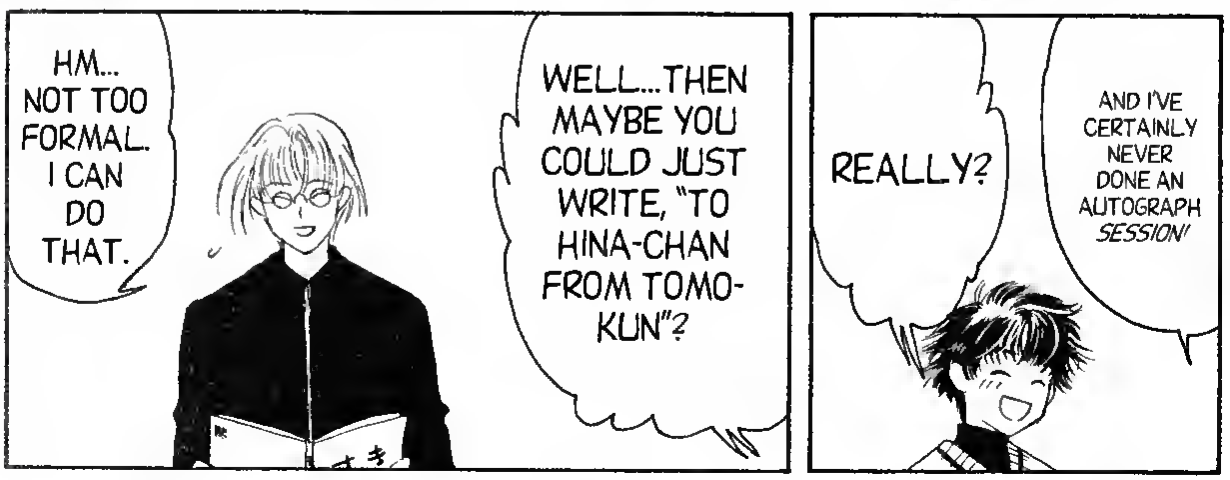
SUKI 2
words and pictures by Tomo
KUMA-SAN AND THE LITTLE BEAR!
THEY REMIND ME SO MUCH OF ME AND SENSEI!
ぎゅー
SUKI
HINA-CHAN?

TOMO-KUN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I WAS JUST READING YOUR NEW BOOK!!

I BOUGHT IT JUST NOW AT THE BOOKSTORE.
BUT I COULDN'T WAIT TO GET HOME, SO I OPENED IT AND READ IT AS SOON AS I LEFT!
GUESS I WAS TOO LATE, THEN.
I WAS HOPING TO GIVE THIS TO YOU THE NEXT TIME I SAW YOU.
HERE.
SUKI
OH, WOW!
WOULD YOU STILL ACCEPT THIS? IF IT'S NOT TOO INCONVE-NIENT.
REALLY?! WOW!!
I DID WRITE IT FOR YOU, AFTER ALL.
YAYYY!!

OH! THEN...UM... UM...CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
OF COURSE.
COULD YOU PLEASE WRITE MY NAME HERE-- LIKE "TO HINA-CHAN"? AND THEN... COULD YOU SIGN IT FOR ME?
WOULD THAT BE ALL RIGHT...?
Huh?


WELL, "TO HINA-CHAN" IS NO PROBLEM, BUT...
MY AUTOGRAPH?
THEN... NO?
I'VE JUST NEVER SIGNED AN AUTOGRAPH BEFORE.
WELL... I DON'T MEAN NO, BUT...
REALLY?


AND I'VE CERTAINLY NEVER DONE AN AUTOGRAPH SESSION!
REALLY?
WELL...THEN MAYBE YOU COULD JUST WRITE, "TO HINA-CHAN FROM TOMO-KUN"?
HM... NOT TOO FORMAL. I CAN DO THAT.

NOW I HAVE *TWO* BOOKS!
JOY, JOY!
YAYY!
WRITE IT WITH THIS, KAY?
ぽん
OOOH-- CAN I GIVE THE OTHER ONE TO ASO-SENSEI?
ER...
WELL THAT MIGHT BE A BIT...
OH! DO YOU WANT TO KEEP THIS A *SECRET* FROM SENSEI?
IT'S JUST THAT HE MIGHT GET SULKY. AND YOU KNOW WHAT A HAND-FUL *THAT* CAN BE.
THAT SHIRO...

QUITE REGULARLY.
REALLY... SENSEI *SULKS?!*
I ENVY YOU, TOMO-KUN.
WHY?
SIGH
YOU JUST SEEM TO KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT SENSEI.
I'VE SPENT HARDLY ANY TIME WITH HIM...
THERE'S SO MUCH I DON'T KNOW!

BUT I'LL BE LEARNING *LOTS* OF THINGS FROM NOW ON...
RIGHT?
...RIGHT.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SHIRO?
YES.

AFTER ALL, I LOVE SENSEI.
HEH HEH!
YOU MEAN... SHIRO?

YES. I LOVE HIM VERY MUCH.
IN FACT, I LOVE SENSEI MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE *WORLD!*
YOU REALLY MIGHT BE ABLE TO CHANGE HIM.
THEN PERHAPS...

Hee hee!
YOU'RE VERY CUTE, YOU KNOW THAT, HINA-CHAN?
WHAT?
Oh!
I KNOW!
WHY DON'T YOU COME TO MY HOUSE FOR DINNER TONIGHT, TOMO-KUN?!
AS THANKS FOR THIS BOOK!
SUKI 2
words and pictures by Tomo
I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF GROCERY SHOPPING FOR DINNER!
I JUST STOPPED BY THE BOOKSTORE TO GET SUKI 2!

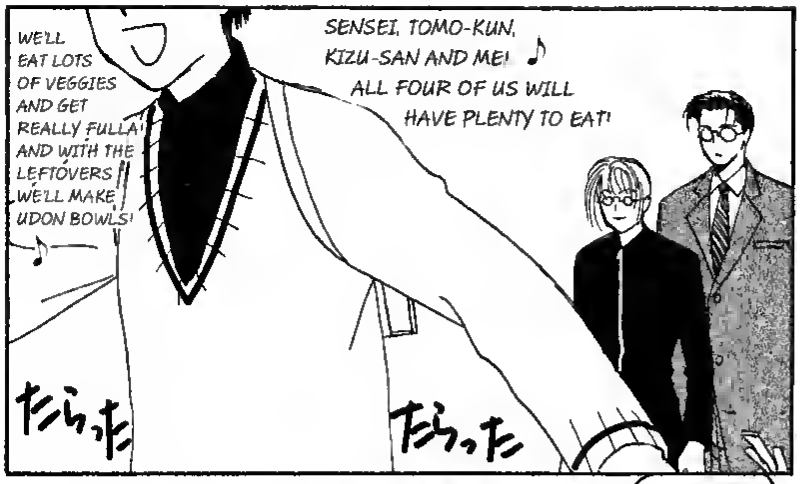
OH, BUT, BUT...
...YOU MUST BE BUSY WITH YOUR WORK.
YOU ARE AN AUTHOR, AFTER ALL...
Hmmm...
NO, I CAN COME.
YOU MEAN YOU CAN EAT DINNER WITH ME?!
IF THAT WOULDN'T BE AN INCONVE-NIENCE.
YIPPEE!!

DON'T MENTION IT.
NO... THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
ペコリ
WHAT SAY WE GO SHOPPING NOW?
FOR BEING MY MODEL FOR THESE BOOKS.
HUH? DIDN'T YOU TREAT ME?
OH-- AND THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
とん
I'M GOING TO MAKE NABE AGAIN TONIGHT!
SOUNDS DELICIOUS. HOW MANY ARE COMING?
PIPING-HOT NABE!
I'M GOING SHOPPING WITH TOMO-KUN
TWO GOING SHOPPING IS MORE FUN THAN ONE!
THIS WAY THE SHOPPING BAGS WON'T WEIGH A TON...
OKAY!
SINCE WE'RE HAVING *NABE* AND ALL.
WELL, IT WOULD BE NICE IF KIZU-SAN COULD COME, TOO.

I'D LIKE IT IF HE COULD COME.
BUT ISN'T KIZU-SAN BUSY?
SHOULD I CALL HIM?
KIZU. PLEASE COME.
BEEP RING
OH, NO. IT WON'T BE A PROBLEM.

THAT'S IT? YOU DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO TELL HIM WHERE OR WHEN?
BEEP

?
YES... HE'LL BE HERE VERY SOON, I EXPECT.
?
HEY!
KIZU-SAN!!


WE'LL EAT LOTS OF VEGGIES AND GET REALLY FULLA! AND WITH THE LEFTOVERS WE'LL MAKE UDON BOWLS!
SENSEI, TOMO-KUN, KIZU-SAN AND ME! ALL FOUR OF US WILL HAVE PLENTY TO EAT!
たらった
たらった

YIPPEE, YIPPEE! EATING NABE! NABE TASTES BETTER WHEN EATEN WITH FRIENDS!

...ARE YOU SURE THIS IS ALL RIGHT?
WHAT?

たらったらった
たらったー
OH, I'M SURE HE WILL BE.
ASO WILL BE UPSET.

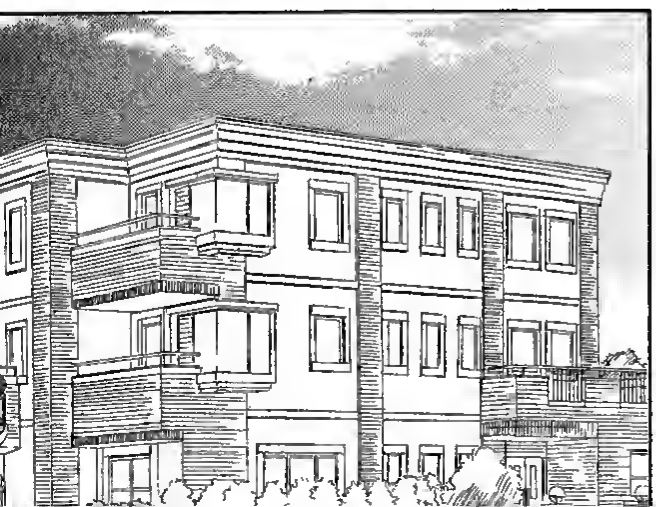
AND...IT APPEARS HINA-CHAN IS IN LOVE WITH SHIRO.
"MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD," SHE SAYS.

SO MANY KINDS OF NABE TO MAKE! ♩ WHICH ONE SHALL I CHOOSE ON THIS DATE? CLAM NABE, ♪ KIMCHI MIZUTAKI OR MISO! AND NOT ONLY THOSE, BUT OH SO MUCH MORE... ♪
すきっ ぷ
すきっ ぷ
...BUT HINA-CHAN IS A *VERY* GOOD GIRL.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. THIS ISN'T GOOD.

...BUT I CAN UNDERSTAND HIS COMMITMENT TO IT... PARTICULARLY AFTER HIS LAST LITTLE *INCIDENT*.
THAT MAY BE WHY SHIRO ISN'T SUITED FOR THIS JOB...
BESIDES, I BELIEVE HINA-CHAN MAY BE ABLE TO CHANGE SHIRO.
THAT'S WHY I LIKE HER SO MUCH.

SHIRO MAY NOT BE MUCH OF A CHARMER, BUT AT LEAST HINA-CHAN IS CUTE. SO I DON'T CARE IF HE GETS MAD. IF HINA-CHAN'S HAPPY, I'M HAPPY
TOMO-KUN, KIZU-SAN-- THIS WAY!
OKAY!



THERE! ALL DONE!
I'LL CALL SENSEI OVER NOW!
KIZU-SAN-- COULD YOU WATCH THE NABE, PLEASE?
YES.
I'LL CALL OVER SENSEI
I'LL CALL HIM RIGHT NOW!
I'LL TAKE THE BACK WAY
'CUZ IT'S QUICKER
SOMEHOW.
カラカラ

THOSE GUYS...
...HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD THEM NOT TO STICK THEIR NOSES INTO MY BUSINESS?!

I LOVE YOU, SENSEI.
YOU'RE THE ONE I LOVE THE MOST.
...YOU CAN'T FALL IN LOVE WITH ME.
I'M NOT THE NICE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER YOU THINK I AM.

HUH?
SENSEI!
DINNER'S READY!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
MAYBE HE'S NOT HOME...?
I DID SAY DINNER WOULD BE READY AROUND 6.
IF HE'S NOT HOME, I'LL LEAVE A NOTE... JUST LIKE THAT LITTLE BEAR IN MY BOOK!
ALL RIGHTY... I'M GOING IN!
HM?
とん

I WONDER WHERE IT'S COMING FROM?
WHAT'S MAKING THAT BUZZING SOUND?
SOMEBODY'S CLIMBING HER FENCE--!

SENSEI!
Piffle Princess
BUT YOU DIDN'T ANSWER, SO I WAS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT IF YOU WERE HOME OR NOT.
I WAS THINKING ABOUT WRITING A MESSAGE IN THE DIRT TELLING YOU THAT DINNER WAS READY... WITH LOVE FROM HINA!
I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT DINNER'S READY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?!

HEY! THAT BUZZING SOUND IS COMING FROM YOUR HOUSE, SENSEI!!
OH.
...SO IT WAS YOU.
WHAT WAS ME?
WHAT IS IT? I STARTED HEARING IT WHEN I CLIMBED THE FENCE.

WHATTA PAIN...
I SHOULD FIX THIS ALARM SO THE SOUND DOESN'T LEAK OUTSIDE.
カラカラ
?
?
OF COURSE. IT'LL BE COMPLETELY MEANINGLESS IF *SHE* FINDS OUT ABOUT IT.
SIGH
OH... THAT EXPLAINS IT!
THAT WAS MY ALARM CLOCK.
I WAS TAKING A NAP.

I'LL BET I'D WAKE UP *INSTANTLY* WITH AN ALARM LIKE THAT!
CAN I SEE IT NEXT TIME I COME OVER?
IT DID SOUND MORE LIKE A BURGLAR ALARM...
...THAN AN ALARM CLOCK, THOUGH.
NEXT TIME...!
YEAH... NEXT TIME.
ひょい

WHAT?
OKAAAAY!
...HURRY UP.
OOPSIE-DAISY...
HEH HEH!
FOR A SECOND, I THOUGHT MAYBE HE WAS GOING TO LIFT ME UP LIKE LAST TIME, WHEN WE CLEANED THE YARD!

I WONDER WHAT SENSEI WAS THINKING WHEN I TOLD HIM I LOVE HIM.
I GUESS HE DOESN'T HATE ME, IF HE'S COMING OVER FOR DINNER.
I JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T FEEL UNCOM-FORTABLE BECAUSE I SAID IT.
I HOPE...

THANKS FOR WAITING, EVERY-ONE!
piffle princess
HELLO THERE.
ARE THESE THE RIGHT DISHES?
YUP! THANK YOU.
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WATCH-ING THE NABE.

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU...STAY AWAY FROM MY MARK!
1 CUP, —2 CUPS...
I'LL TAKE THIS TO THE TABLE.
TELL THAT TO HIM. I'M NOT THE DECISION-MAKER.
BESIDES, YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL THAT YOU HAVE TROUBLE CONTROLLING YOURSELF.

WELL, IT'S MY JOB, AND I'M GOING TO DO IT.
YOU ALSO KNOW PERFECTLY WELL THAT YOU ARE INCAPABLE OF TREATING THINGS IN SUCH A CUT-AND-DRIED MANNER.
EVEN SO... THIS TIME...
...I'M FINISHING WHAT I STARTED.
IT'S READY!

HUH?!
YAYYY!
ITADAKIMASU!
LET'S EAT!
DON'T MAKE A SOUND.
A BLACK-OUT--?!
Concluded in Vol. 3